

## Invasion 'any day'

Top Biden aide offers stark warning on Russia, Ukraine situation. **NEWS, PAGE 4**

## Fatal Hartford shooting

Police responding to car crash find driver with gunshot wound. **CONNECTICUT, PAGE 1**

## Knight leads USA

Hilary Knight scores twice in 8-0 women's hockey win over Switzerland. **SPORTS, PAGE 1**

## Slippery afternoon



Chance of afternoon icy mix; high of 37. **SPORTS, PAGE 8**

# Hartford Courant



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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2022

## Property taxes rising as home values surge

Many Hartford owners could face sticker shock; office, hotel values slide

By Kenneth R. Gosselin

Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — Many homeowners in Hartford face property tax bills that could soar by \$1,000 or more after a recently-completed real estate revaluation found strong gains in home values

fueled by the pandemic's hot housing market.

The overall value of single-family houses surged nearly 30% compared with the last revaluation in 2016. Two- and three-family houses — also considered residential real estate — saw even larger overall jumps of 38% and 46%, respectively, in appraisals, according to the city.

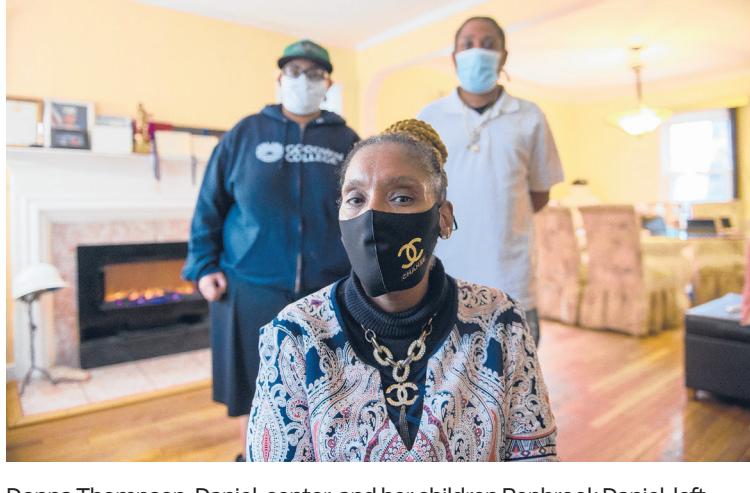
The whopping increases have caught some homeowners in the city off guard, while they are still

struggling with the fallout from the coronavirus.

"A lot of people are really hurting," said Donna Thompson-Daniel, chairwoman of the Blue Hills Neighborhood Revitalization Zone. "Not only are property taxes going up, but we also know food went up. Gas went up. Clothing has gone up. But our paychecks have not gone up."

Thompson-Daniel, a retired

**Turn to Values, Page 2**



Donna Thompson-Daniel, center, and her children Renbrook Daniel, left, and Robert Daniel II live in Hartford's Blue Hills neighborhood. Thompson-Daniel, chairwoman of the Blue Hills revitalization zone, says people in the neighborhood are worried about property taxes rising while they're struggling with higher gas and food bills. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**



Sleep trailers are lined up at an Eversource Energy staging area in Danielson. The state's largest utility has been working to add crews, repair trucks and staging areas amid calls to respond to increasingly numerous and destructive storms. **EVERSOURCE PHOTOS**

## Eversource adds on to address challenge

With strong storms more common, additional crews, trucks, staging areas needed

By Stephen Singer  
Hartford Courant

One word sums up what Eversource Energy needs as Connecticut's regulators, elected officials and customers press the state's largest utility to improve its response to increasingly numerous and destructive storms: more.

More work crews, repair trucks and planning are required to handle the array of tasks needed to restore electricity knocked out by ice and snow, tropical storms, hurricanes and tornadoes.

Crews that once typically numbered in the hundreds are now in the thousands, said John DiPaola-Tromba, director of business and quality assurance in Eversource's engineering division. About 2,500 crews, typically with two workers that can increase to four or more in some cases,



An Eversource storm staging area at Rentschler Field in East Hartford.

**Turn to Eversource, Page 3**



Paul Venti leads a prayer at a memorial for six workers killed by an explosion at the Kleen Energy plant in Middletown 12 years ago. Venti, who drove from North Carolina for the ceremony, was a union steward at the plant at the time. **DON STACOM/HARTFORD COURANT**

## 'The grief never goes away'

Kleen Energy plant explosion remembered on 12th anniversary

By Don Stacom

Hartford Courant

MIDDLETOWN — Twelve years have gone by since a horrific explosion at the Kleen Energy plant in Middletown killed six workers and injured dozens more, but Kyle Zimmer said the pain remains.

"The grief never goes away. It may seem it's getting easier, but then something will trigger it and you're right back in that spot again," said Zimmer, a union safety official who

worked on the search-and-rescue mission right after the blast.

"We all know what a horrific scene this was. And here we are, 12 years after, still remembering the workers who gave up their life in this tragedy," Zimmer told a crowd of several dozen who stood at a memorial Sunday morning to mark the anniversary.

The annual gatherings began in 2011 as a way to comfort the survivors of the six men, the roughly 50 injured victims and the hundreds of construction workers who were horrified by what happened to their coworkers on the \$1 billion project.

**Turn to Kleen, Page 3**

## UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## Fudd's day was worth the wait

By Dom Amore

HARTFORD — As Azzi Fudd arrived at the XL Center on Sunday morning she didn't see anything, or think or feel anything that told her this would be the day. She just had the usual nerves.

"You know, I was just nervous, a little nervous," she said. "Good nervous, obviously."

When the lights went on, Fudd was wearing the throw-back uniform that she and her teammates loved, and for the first time in a long, often frustrating freshman season, her name was in the starting lineup.

On the first possession of the game, Fudd let one fly. There was the omen. The first of seven 3-point buckets and 25 points as the UConn women beat seventh-ranked Tennessee 75-56 before 13,700.

Now this was what Fudd and UConn signed on for.

"Azzi looked happy playing basketball today," coach Geno Auriemma said. "Sometimes kids that come in with that kind of hype, it's like an obligation. I know everyone expects me to do this and I hope I don't let anybody down." She just looked like a happy kid playing the game she loves. ... Makes it look easy, doesn't she?"

Fudd, 5 feet 11, the 2019 Gatorade national high school player of the year last season, is the latest of that long line of players arriving at UConn to be the next big thing in women's basketball, with NIL deals in place before she played her first game. Fudd and her closest of friends, Paige Buckers, playing together? What a year it would be.

But when players and coaches

**Turn to Amore, Page 3**

## Son's health needs inspire vegan café

Wild Alchemy Café, which has served plant-based, raw, whole, organic foods in Wallingford since 2015, has opened a new location in Avon. The menu was inspired by the solution to her son's health difficulties. **CONNECTICUT, PAGE 1**

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### Values

from Page 1

school crossing guard who now works as a substitute teacher, saw the appraisal on her 1,100-square-foot, 3-bedroom, 1.5 bath Cape on Lyme Street jump nearly 40% to \$165,400 from \$118,400 in 2016.

"I'm waiting to see how many people are going to be able to afford to live where they are living right now," Thompson-Daniel said. "Some of these people are going to have to go and get a second job. And some of them are not young people."

The city is going to have to figure out how to get some relief for property owners, Thompson-Daniel said.

"If I was looking to sell, I would be making some money," said Thompson-Daniel, who has lived in her house for 34 years. "But I'm not looking to move out of my neighborhood because I love it here."

### Another equation

While residential real estate saw big gains, the fallout from the pandemic had the opposite affect on most segments of commercial real estate.

The value of larger office buildings, hotels and restaurants generally tumbled, the revaluation found, as uncertainty swirls around emerging from the pandemic. It is still unclear as to what extent companies will bring back workers to the office, if they will downsize or renew leases and how business travel will be reshaped.

The city said office property values could fall by as much as 10% overall.

CityPlace I, downtown Hartford's tallest office tower, for instance, had its appraised value fall from \$103 million in 2016 to \$82 million in last fall's revaluation, a 20% decline. City Place's owners, Paradigm Properties of Boston, declined to comment.

Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin said the revaluation confirmed what the city has observed throughout the pandemic: the surge in the housing market — seen in towns and cities across the state — and the struggles in the office market.

"There is no question in this real that residential properties will make up a larger share of the total taxable property than it did



The appraisal on Donna Thompson-Daniel's family's 1,100-square-foot, 3-bedroom, 1.5 bath Cape on Lyme Street jumped nearly 40% to \$165,400 from \$118,400 in 2016. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

in the previous reval," Bronin said. "We are going to do our best in our budget process to mitigate the impact on homeowners by reducing the mill rate modestly, if we can, but that will only cushion the blow a little bit."

Owners of larger apartment buildings, with four or more units, also are bracing for possible hefty tax increases. Larger apartment properties — considered commercial rather than residential real estate — was a bright spot in commercial real estate.

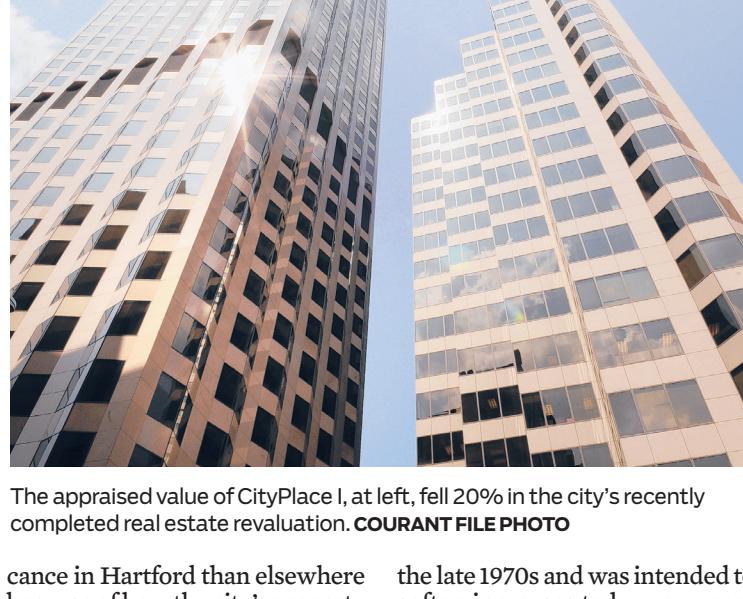
In Hartford and across the country, investors have been shoveling funds into apartment projects and purchases, pushing up values.

City officials point out that the trends aren't all bad for office buildings downtown, however, with some signing leases with new tenants despite the pandemic.

For example, the owners of One Financial Plaza, the "Gold Building," inked a lease with Sun Life Financial last summer for 47,000 square feet, enough space for up to 450 employees.

### Appraisals

The decline in appraisals for office and other commercial properties — the largest segment of taxable properties in the city — is taking on even greater signifi-



The appraised value of CityPlace I, at left, fell 20% in the city's recently completed real estate revaluation. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

cance in Hartford than elsewhere because of how the city's property taxes are calculated.

Property tax bills are based on a percentage of the appraised value, or the assessed value. Hartford, unlike all other towns and cities in Connecticut, figures the assessed value differently for residential and commercial property.

Commercial property is assessed at 70% of appraised value, while residential is pegged at 36.75%. The two-tiered system dates from

the late 1970s and was intended to soften increases to homeowners after a long period between revaluations.

State law now requires property revaluations to be conducted every five years.

Bronin said the city could seek approval for delaying the revaluation, but he is wary of doing that, worried about further erosion in commercial property values in the next few years.

"This may be one of those situ-

ations where the best choice is simply the least bad option," Bronin said.

### Tax exempts complicate things

Hartford has struggled with its tax rate of 74.29 mills, with commercial property owners paying the highest real estate taxes in the state and some of the steepest in the country.

On top of that, the value of tax-exempt real estate — government buildings, hospitals and churches — exceed the value of taxable real estate by a third.

Property taxes are calculated by multiplying the tax rate by the assessed value and dividing that number by 1,000.

City Assessor John Philip said Hartford is just at the beginning of the process that will lead to the tax bills that come due July 1.

The new appraisals and assessed values, mailed two weeks ago to residents and commercial property owners, are a key indicator of how tax bills will play out. But they are not the only piece of the puzzle, Philip said.

The city's grand list — the total of all taxable property — is expected to increase, potentially pushing the tax rate down. The city's grand list now stands at about \$4 billion, but the grand list for 2021 is still being drawn up, Philip said.

How much local tax money the city budgets to provide services to taxpayers also weighs heavily on the tax rate.

Property owners who do not agree with their appraisals and resulting assessments can discuss them with the consultant that performed the appraisal. If still not satisfied, a formal appeal can be filed with the city, Philip said.

Bronin said the two-tiered assessment system, which is much lower for residential property, actually puts Hartford in line with — or in some cases lower — than some surrounding suburban towns when it comes to taxing residential properties.

The city's assessment system is the cause for a lot of confusion, Bronin said, and a better approach might be establishing separate tax rates for residential and commercial property.

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**LOTTERY** Sunday, Feb. 6

**PLAY3 DAY** 9 5 1 WB: 2

**PLAY4 DAY** 1 6 9 5 WB: 2

**SATURDAY'S LATE NUMBERS**

**PLAY3 NIGHT** 5 5 6 WB: 7

**PLAY4 NIGHT** 2 0 5 9 WB: 8

**CASH 5**

1 11 12 28 33

**LUCKY FOR LIFE**

4 18 25 43 45 LB: 12

**POWERBALL**

5 16 27 39 61 PB: 24 PP: 2

**Tuesday's est. Lotto jackpot:** \$1.3 million

**Tuesday's est. Mega Millions jackpot:** \$31 million

**Wednesday's est. Powerball jackpot:** \$147 million

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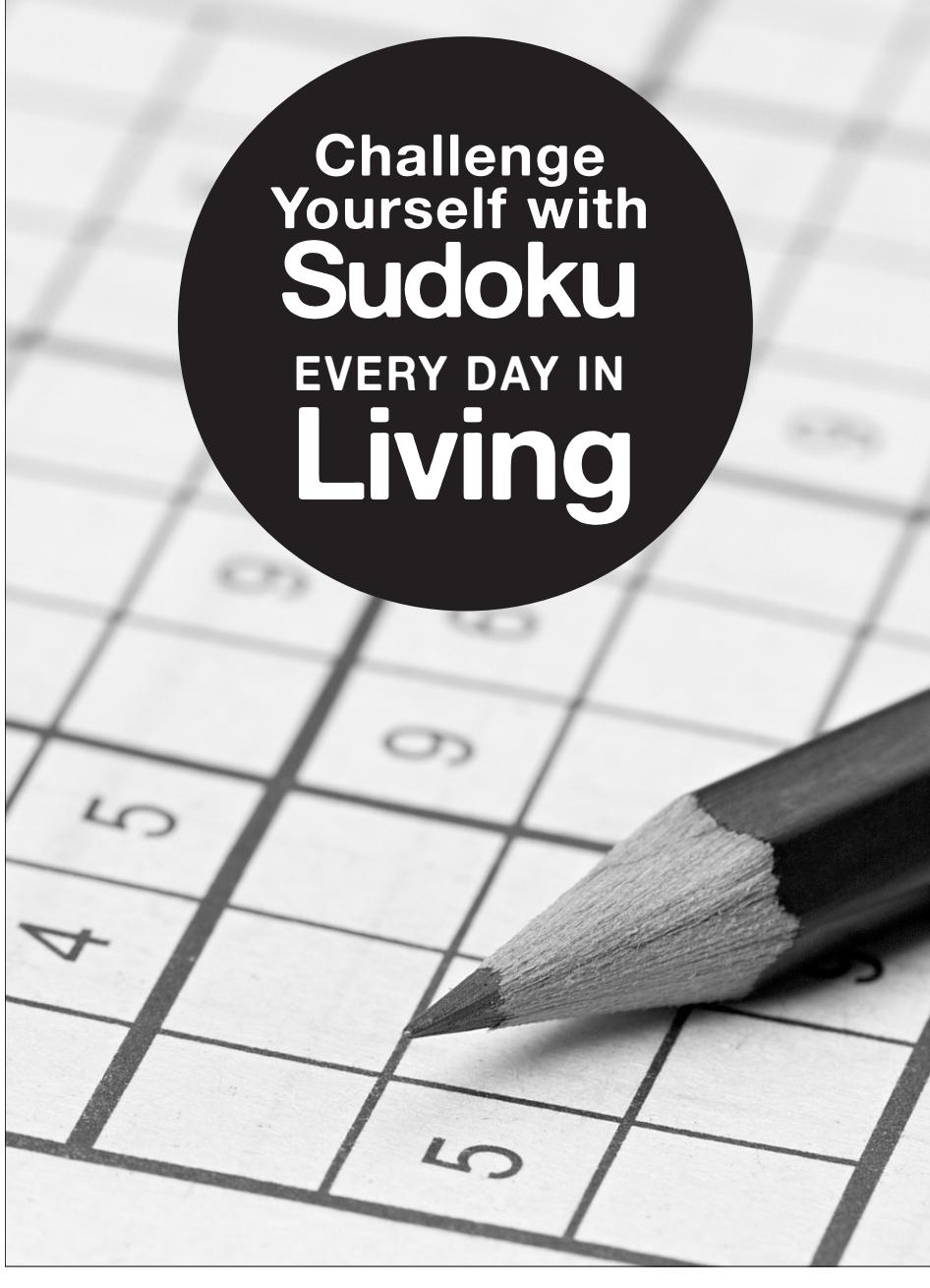
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## FROM PAGE ONE

### Eversource

from Page 1

were brought in several days into Tropical Storm Isaias in August 2020, he said.

Hurricane Henri last August drew about 1,500 crews on the first day, DiPaola-Tromba said. More than 8,000 workers were lodged the first night, including the use of bunk trailers. As many as 10,000 could have been accommodated, but the storm shifted east, sparing Connecticut its full force.

"We're seeing 1,000 crews and up more consistently, even for smaller events," he said.

### Ratepayers could face bigger bills

Ratepayers could end up with heftier bills as severe storms become more frequent. Preliminary costs associated with Tropical Storm Isaias in 2020 were tens of millions of dollars more than storms a few years earlier, according to Connecticut regulators.

Powerful storms, including tornadoes that once were rare in New England, are forcing Eversource and all utilities to rethink how they respond. In just a decade, Connecticut was hit by an autumn nor'easter in October 2011, Superstorm Sandy the following year, a severe wind storm in 2017 and Isaias 18 months ago.

Isaias knocked out power for days to about 1 million customers of Eversource and United Illuminating. The utilities' response drew condemnation from Connecticut's elected officials and regulators who imposed stiff penalties for inadequate communication and what critics said was a slow response. Eversource agreed to a \$103 million settlement with the state.

The state Public Utilities Regulatory Authority criticized Eversource for falling short in "meeting its obligation to secure adequate resources in a timely manner to protect the public safety and to provide for the overall public interest."

Eversource has insisted it was



An Eversource Energy storm staging area at Rentschler Field in East Hartford. EVERSOURCE

well-prepared, but the weather forecast changed late.

The Berlin-based utility is looking at areas to sleep and feed 1,000 or 2,000 workers. An area measuring 20 acres can accommodate 50 sleep trailers, food tents and other staging area essentials. Tents that before were 50-by-50 are now as large as a football field to feed as many as 2,000 people, DiPaola-Tromba said.

"We've never had anything close to this setup for us," he said.

### Extending reach to draw more crews

To bring in work crews quickly, Eversource is extending its reach, sometimes as far as Canada and Washington state. Many workers who before drove their trucks to Connecticut are now flown in. The utility hopes to bring in about 200 crews by plane in the next two years, Rorison said.

Without a long drive, workers can get right to work. Previously, they slept soon after arriving. As a result, response time is cut from four days "down to possibly six hours by the time you notify them and get them on a plane and they arrive here to go to work," he said.

When crews fly in, they'll need

trucks waiting for them. Eversource is buying 50 trucks in Massachusetts and 40 in Connecticut, with another 10 planned, Rorison said. Eversource began buying trucks in September 2020, a month after Isaias swept through Connecticut.

"We're pushing close to 100 trucks," he said. "I'd like to push it to 200," though supply chain problems are delaying chassis deliveries by 14 months, he said.

The two top state lawmakers who oversee energy issues were split in their assessment of Eversource's work.

Rep. David Arconti, a Danbury Democrat and House chairman of the Energy and Technology Committee, said Eversource has improved its communications. "They're making the changes the legislature and PURA ideally want them to make," he said.

Sen. Norman Needleman, an Essex Democrat and the committee's Senate chairman, said Eversource is supplementing its line workers that he said have been reduced in number.

"I've been arguing with them for a while about being a virtual company," he said.

In response, Eversource said in an emailed statement that its workforce has been growing steadily. It

committed last fall to add 150 line workers over the next five years and is doing so, the utility said.

"Highly trained, skilled and experienced line workers are hard to come by in the job market and it takes a minimum of five years to train and qualify a line worker candidate," Eversource said.

Utilities nationwide are changing their approach to storm response. Scott Aaronson, senior vice president for security and preparedness at Edison Electric Institute, an industry group, said Eversource is not an outlier.

"Everyone has a natural hazard or threat they're most concerned about," he said. "There are fewer earthquakes in the Northeast, fewer ice storms in California."

### Rising costs to improve resilience and response

To strengthen resilience against storms, investor-owned utilities are projected to increase capital spending by 81%, to \$142.4 billion next year from \$78.6 billion in 2011.

Eversource did not provide details on its cost estimates for bolstering its storm response. The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority said that at the time of its investi-

gation of the utility's preparation for and response to Isaias, Eversource reported \$227.6 million in costs, spokesman Joe Cooper said.

Storm restoration costs in 2017/2018 were \$141 million. PURA approved a plan to spread the amount billed to Eversource customers over six years beginning in May 2019.

The final cost related to Isaias is not known because a request by Eversource is not pending before PURA. Costs billed to ratepayers must be authorized by regulators.

However, PURA ruled last April that Eversource was "not prudent," or fell short, in communicating critical information to its customers or meeting its obligation to secure adequate resources in a timely manner to protect the public safety and "provide for the overall public interest" in its response to Isaias.

Any costs related to Eversource's performance could be disallowed in a future rate proceeding.

Eversource spokesman Mitch Gross said many of the utility's changes followed Isaias and the intense criticism that followed.

"This is now the standard," he said. "It's the new world. It's the post-Isaias world."

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## Amore

from Page 1

and fans make plans, the basketball gods sometimes laugh. Now we know that can happen even with this program. Fudd, who recovered from a major knee injury before coming to UConn, played sparingly at the start, then went out with a foot injury, idle from Nov. 22 until Jan. 26. Bueckers injured a knee and has been out since Dec. 5.

"I haven't really had time to let this sink in yet," said Fudd, playing in only her ninth game, "but this isn't at all how I expected my freshman year to go, sitting out of so many games and getting hurt. But my teammates just make the moment so much more special for me."

Fudd is a perfectionist. Her shooting stroke has both cold precision and sheer poetry, and in this she has reached as close to perfection as one could ask of a 19-year-old. But like many UConn stars before her, she wants to fit into a functioning unit, not be perceived as selfish. So unlike some players with nowhere near the shooting gravitas, Fudd does see shots she doesn't like.

"She is more, I have to have everything exactly right before I can trust myself," Auriemma said. "We're trying to break her of that."

She had a little trouble hitting inside the arc, but when she got a look to her liking at the perimeter, she hit 7 of 9.

"She's always been known



UConn's Azzi Fudd lets one fly from long range against Tennessee on Sunday at the XL Center. The freshman, in her first career start, made seven of nine 3-pointers to lead the Huskies to a big win. JESSICA HILL/AP

as a great shooter," Tennessee coach Kellie Harper said. "She has a beautiful shot. Really, really pretty to watch, to be honest with you. The game plan was not to leave Azzi Fudd open."

However, teammates kept finding her, and Fudd kept shooting. She went 4-for-4, three of them 3-pointers, in the fourth period, each as pretty to watch as the last, each getting the big crowd and her teammates, including Bueck-

ers, up off their feet to cheer.

"It's pretty hard to not be happy when your teammates get you so many open shots," Fudd said. "Today was definitely a lot of fun, and I was smiling the whole time. Seeing so many of my shots go in today, it was definitely a big confidence booster."

Teammate Evina Westbrook weighed in on the artistry. "Azzi's like a walking bucket," she said. "Whenever the ball comes out of

her hands, we know it's going in."

So what does it all mean? That blessing, so well disguised all winter, is beginning to show itself. Caroline Ducharme, who stepped in and provided the dynamic play to keep the Huskies afloat, missed the game as a precaution, having taken a few hits lately. She'll be back soon, and Bueckers could begin ramping things up after a meeting with doctors this weekend. Aaliyah Edwards started and

scored 14 on Sunday.

What is this going to look like when everybody's back, when the old weapons are added to the new, and to the ones Auriemma didn't know he had?

"Paige is the kind of kid, she doesn't care if she takes any shots," Auriemma said. "So that's one more distributor, one more smart decision-maker, one more defender. Caroline will just keep being Caroline. She's found her niche. That's her role, and you can just kind of play it by ear every game. Somebody's got it going, let's go with her, like Azzi today. We could be a good team in March. If we make the NCAA Tournament, we're going to be a tough out."

As it is, the Huskies (15-4) have won six in a row, beating the top two contenders in the Big East, Creighton and DePaul, and now served notice, shorthanded as they remain, with a resounding win over No. 7 Tennessee. The storm is passing, the clouds of doubt are clearing, and as each player has returned, Auriemma said, the vibe has gotten better.

"It's going to be very scary, and definitely scary for our opponents," Fudd said. "We're going to be a nasty team with everyone healthy."

Then Fudd, Westbrook and Edwards left the room smiling, giggling and repeating the new buzzword. *Nasty*. This was Azzi Fudd's coming of age party, after all, and everyone was invited.

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## Kleen

from Page 1

"These services play an important part in our healing process, and we can never, never let them go," said Zimmer.

Similar gatherings have taken place to honor victims of the state lottery shooting in Newington, the L'Ambiance Plaza collapse and the Hartford Distributors mass shooting.

"All of these services are very powerful in helping the people who worked on these sites and the families of those that were lost to cope with the grief that comes with this every day," Zimmer said.

The 12 years that have elapsed since the Kleen Energy explosion are extra reason to continue the annual memorials, Middletown Mayor Ben Florsheim said Sunday as he praised the organizers.

"Thank you making sure that every year, year after year, we are gathered here to recognize this occasion — especially now, past the 10-year mark," Florsheim said.

"Now the event is starting to move



Middletown Mayor Ben Florsheim speaks at a memorial gathering for workers killed in the 2010 Kleen Energy plant explosion, which killed six workers. To his left is Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, who also spoke at the memorial Sunday. DON STACOM/HARTFORD COURANT

into the historical period. We're entering a period where it will be a distant memory or before they were old enough to remember,

so it is all the more important we gather here."

A series of speakers said unions

must continue to pressure lawmakers

ers around the country to improve worker safety.

Investigators determined that O&G Industries of Torrington, the general contractor building the Kleen Energy plant, tried to flush an enormous network of pipes using natural gas. The process, called a "gas blow," was banned by then-Gov. M. Jodi Rell afterward, and the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited O&G and other contractors for more than 110 safety violations.

"The world is different now for people who work at places like Kleen Energy all over our country," Florsheim said. "That's because of the events that happened here and the work you have done to change that environment."

The audience held a moment of silence in honor of the six workers who died: Peter Chepulis, Ronald Crabb, Raymond Dobratz, Kenneth Haskell, Roy Rushton and Chris Walters.

Florsheim called on the crowd to press for even stronger worker safety measures in the future.

"The way we can honor their

legacy as working people is to continue that fight," Florsheim said. "Too many people still die at work. Too many people still work in unsafe conditions."

Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz offered a similar message.

"Today we take an opportunity to think about each of those people we lost," she said. "We know they're looking down now — they're asking what are all of us doing to make sure that people who are working now, who are on the front lines, are protected and have the safety laws and regulations in place so they can go home to their families."

Paul Venti, who had been a union steward at Kleen Energy when the blast happened, said he's determined to keep the memory alive.

"I worked with these guys on other jobs. I fished with them. They were great friends of mine," said Venti, a retiree who drove from North Carolina to host the ceremony. "You've got to remember the people who went to work and never came home. Workplace safety is everybody's business."

# WORLD & NATION

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## Top Biden aide: Invasion 'any day'

Sullivan offers stark warning on number of Ukraine casualties

By Aamer Madhani  
Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. — White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said Sunday that Russia could invade Ukraine "any day," launching a conflict that would come at an "enormous human cost."

The senior adviser to President Joe Biden offered another stark warning the day after U.S. officials confirmed that Russia has assembled at least 70% of the military firepower it likely intends to have in place by mid-month to give President Vladimir Putin the option of launching a full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

"If war breaks out, it will come at an enormous human cost to Ukraine, but we believe that based on our preparations and our response, it will come at a strategic cost to Russia as well," Sullivan said.

Sullivan did not directly address reports that the White House has briefed lawmakers that a full Russian invasion could lead to the quick capture of Kyiv and potentially result in as many as 50,000 casualties as he made appearances on Sunday talk shows.

U.S. officials, who discussed internal assessments of the Russian buildup on the condition that they not be identified, sketched out a series of indicators suggesting that Putin intends to start an invasion in the coming weeks, although the size and scale are unclear. They stressed that a diplomatic solution



U.S. soldiers from Fort Bragg, N.C., exit a transport aircraft after arriving Sunday in Rzeszow, Poland. OMAR MARQUES/GETTY

appears to remain possible.

Among those military indicators: An exercise of Russia's strategic nuclear forces that usually is held each fall was rescheduled for mid-February to March. That coincides with what U.S. officials see as the most likely window for invasion.

The administration has stepped up warnings in recent days that Russia increasingly seems intent on further invading Ukrainian territory.

Last week, Biden administration officials said that intelligence findings showed that the Kremlin had worked up an elaborate plot to fabricate an attack by Ukrainian forces that Russia

could use as a pretext to take military action against its neighbor.

"It could happen as soon as tomorrow or it could take some weeks yet," Sullivan said. He added that Putin "has put himself in a position with military deployments to be able to act aggressively against Ukraine at any time now."

Sullivan said that the administration held on to hope that the Russians would move to de-escalate the situation through diplomacy.

"The key thing is that the United States needs to be and is prepared for any of those contingencies and in lockstep with our allies and

partners," Sullivan said. "We have reinforced and reassured our allies on the eastern flank."

Texas Rep. Michael McCaul, the top Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, attended a classified briefing last week that administration officials gave to members of Congress. He was asked whether he came away from the briefing thinking it was certain that Russia would move on Ukraine.

"I would say the conditions are there. It's more likely than not. I think the noose is being prepared," McCaul said.

Biden's ambassador to the United Nations, Linda

Thomas-Greenfield, said the administration was still seeking a diplomatic solution, but "at the same time, we know that the Russians continue to prepare, and we will be working to address the security issues."

Sen. John Barrasso, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Ukraine was the first part of Putin's plan to reassemble the Soviet Union. He worried about what signal that could send to U.S. adversaries.

"He needs to choke on trying to swallow Ukraine because if it's easy pickings for him, my worry is that then China moves against Taiwan and Iran

moves quickly to a nuclear weapon."

Meanwhile, U.S. troops and equipment landed Sunday in Poland near the border with Ukraine following Biden's orders to deploy 1,700 soldiers there amid fears of a Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Hundreds of more troops from the 82nd Airborne Division are expected to arrive at the Rzeszow-Jasionka Airport. A U.S. Air Force Boeing C-17 Globemaster plane brought a few dozen troops and vehicles.

Their commander is Maj. Gen. Christopher Donahue, who on Aug. 30 was the last U.S. soldier to leave Afghanistan.

"Our national contribution here in Poland shows our solidarity with all of our allies here in Europe and, obviously, during this period of uncertainty we know that we are stronger together," Donahue said.

Biden ordered additional U.S. troops deployed to Poland, Romania and Germany to demonstrate America's commitment to NATO's eastern flank.

Biden is set to meet with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Monday at the White House. Scholz has said that Moscow would pay a "high price" in the event of an attack, but his government's refusal to supply lethal weapons to Ukraine, bolster its troop presence in Eastern Europe or spell out which sanctions it would support against Russia has drawn criticism abroad and at home.

French President Emmanuel Macron was to arrive Monday in Moscow for talks with Putin, and in the days to come, Scholz will be there too.

## State AG races could be a litmus test within GOP

Battles as 'people's lawyer' are likely to be contentious

By Geoff Mulvihill  
Associated Press

in the Republican primary as he seeks a sixth term.

One challenger, Arthur McComber, said a key function of the attorney general's role is to act as a watchdog against federal power — something he said Wasden hasn't done enough.

"It's basically a misunderstanding of the attorney general position," said McComber, a real estate lawyer.

The challenge to Wasden from within his own party is emblematic of the broader far-right shift within the GOP. Similar dynamics are permeating races for attorney general across the country as an office often referred to as "the people's lawyer" — responsible in most states for criminal prosecutions and consumer protections — has become increasingly consumed by ideological battles.

Seats for attorneys general are up in 30 states this year. Some of the most likely to attract heavy spending will be in political battlegrounds such as Michigan, Nevada and Wisconsin.

Republicans hold 27 attorney general seats.

Paul Nolette, a Marquette University political scientist, said Republicans could bump that number to 30 or more in a midterm election

year when Republicans are primed to do well in races up and down the ballot.

They've already notched an early victory. Last fall, voters ousted the incumbent Democratic attorney general in Virginia, a state that had been leaning increasingly Democratic in recent years.

Nolette said party affiliation matters more than it used to: "The office has really become like other statewide offices at this point — highly polarized."

For Democrats, there is increasing concern that a Republican wave in this year's elections could sweep Democratic governors, secretaries of state and attorneys general out of power in crucial presidential battleground states.

Steve Bullock, a Democrat who has served as attorney general and governor in Montana, warned that a rogue attorney general could undermine election results.

"How can they mess with it if they don't actually believe in the rule of law? Both in affirmatively bringing action and defensively failing to defend the states' interest," he said.

While secretaries of state oversee elections in most states, attorneys general can play pivotal roles in the



Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden, a Republican seeking a sixth term in the post, faces a challenge from within his own party. DARIN OSWALD/IDAHO STATESMAN 2017

aftermath, as demonstrated in 2020.

A month after that election, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton asked the U.S. Supreme Court to throw out the results in four states that supported Biden over Trump. The court rejected the effort, but only after 18 other Republican attorneys general filed papers in support.

Democratic attorneys general defended their states' 2020 election results in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, as did the Republican attorney general

in Georgia.

"The public must know which side their state AG is on," Nevada Attorney General Aaron Ford, co-chair of the Democratic Attorneys General Association, said in January.

Sigal Chatrah, the only Republican running for the job in Nevada, faults Ford, among other things, for not investigating election fraud sooner and more vigorously.

The Associated Press investigated potential cases of voter fraud from the 2020 presidential election in Nevada and the five

other battleground states where Trump and his allies disputed his loss. The AP found that election officials across Nevada had identified 93 to 98 potential cases — representing less than 0.3% of Biden's margin of victory in the state.

The fields are not set in every attorney general race, but GOP primary showdowns between more establishment-style conservatives and those further to the right is a common theme in several states, including Kansas, Michigan and Minnesota.

## Reports of spyware use on key witness roil Netanyahu trial

By Tia Goldenberg  
Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — Israeli police allegedly used spyware against a key witness in the corruption trial of former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli media reported, jolting the trial and shining a light on an Israeli-developed surveillance tool.

Netanyahu is in the midst of a trial over charges of fraud, breach of trust and

accepting bribes in three separate cases. In the initial report by Israeli Channel 13 last week, police were said to have used spyware to collect information off the witness' phone without first obtaining authorization.

Netanyahu's lawyers have demanded answers from the state about what was gathered and how. The report has reenergized Netanyahu's supporters, who have long seen the trial as part of a conspiracy to topple the polarizing former leader.

Even Netanyahu's political opponents are outraged.

"This is an earthquake that would justify a governmental commission of inquiry," Cabinet Minister Tamar Zandberg, who sits in the coalition that ousted Netanyahu last year, told Israeli Army Radio on Sunday.

Amnon Lord, a columnist at the pro-Netanyahu Israel Hayom daily, called for a mistrial. The witness whose phone was reportedly hacked,

Shlomo Filber, is expected to testify soon and Netanyahu's lawyers are expected to request a delay to his testimony. It remains unclear whether any of the evidence allegedly gathered was used against Netanyahu.

Police and a lawyer for Netanyahu did not respond to a request for comment. Israel's Justice Ministry also declined to comment.

State prosecutors have told Netanyahu's lawyers that they are "thoroughly examining" the reports,

according to internal communications seen by The Associated Press.

The report comes after Israeli newspaper Calcalist reported that Israeli police tracked targets without proper authorization.

Last week, Israel's national police force said it had found evidence pointing to improper use of the spyware by its investigators to snoop on Israeli citizens' phones.

Authorities have not said which spyware might have been improperly used.



Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is in the midst of a trial over charges of fraud, breach of trust and

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## WORLD & NATION

### NEWS BRIEFING

## NKorea continues to develop nuke, missile programs, UN says

From news services

UNITED NATIONS — North Korea has continued to develop its nuclear and ballistic missile programs including its capability to produce nuclear device components in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions, U.N. experts said in a new report.

The panel of experts said in the executive summary of the report obtained Saturday night by The Associated Press that there was "a marked acceleration" of Pyongyang's testing and demonstration of new short-range and possibly medium-range missiles through January, "incorporating both ballistic and guidance technologies and using both solid and liquid propellants."

"New technologies tested included a possible hypersonic guiding warhead and a maneuverable reentry vehicle," the panel said. North Korea also demonstrated "increased capabilities for rapid deployment, wide mobility (including at sea), and improved resilience of its missile forces."

The experts said North Korea "continued to seek material, technology and know-how for these programs overseas, including through cyber means and joint scientific research."

A year ago, the panel said North Korea had modernized its nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles by flouting United Nations sanctions, using cyberattacks to help finance its programs and continuing to seek material and technology overseas for its arsenal including in Iran.

"Cyberattacks, particularly on cryptocurrency assets, remain an important revenue source" for Kim Jong Un's government, the experts monitoring the implementation of sanctions

against the North said in the new report.

In recent months, North Korea has launched a variety of weapons systems and threatened to lift the four-year moratorium on more serious weapons tests such as nuclear explosions and ICBM launches.

January saw a record nine missile launches, and other weapons it recently tested include a developmental hypersonic missile and a submarine-launched missile.

The Security Council initially imposed sanctions on North Korea after its first nuclear test explosion in 2006 and made them tougher in response to further nuclear tests and the country's increasingly sophisticated nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

**Record Russian outbreak:** Russia is reporting a record daily count of new coronavirus infections — a tenfold spike from a month ago — as the highly contagious omicron variant spreads through the country.

The figure of 189,071 new infections released by the state coronavirus task force Sunday was about 2,800 cases more than the previous day and continued a surge that began in mid-January, when daily new cases were around 17,000.

The task force also reported that daily deaths from COVID-19 are holding steady or marginally declining: 661 more deaths were recorded Sunday, compared with 796 on Jan. 6.

The task force has reported a total of 12.8 million infections and 335,414 deaths, the highest death toll by far in Europe.

President Vladimir Putin told Russia's top business association last week that authorities are not planning any lockdowns or other



**Rebels with a cause:** Ocean Rebels, a performance group, protests against seismic surveys Sunday at Muizenberg beach in Cape Town, South Africa. In December, a South African court blocked Shell from conducting seismic testing off the country's eastern shore. The group is demanding the same protection for the country's western coast. **NARDUS ENGELBRECHT/AP**

additional restrictions.

**Navy SEAL candidate:** A Navy SEAL candidate who died hours after completing the grueling Hell Week test was identified Sunday.

Seaman Kyle Mullen, 24, died at a San Diego area hospital Friday after he and another SEAL trainee reported experiencing symptoms of an unknown illness, the Navy said.

The other sailor, whose name has not been released, was hospitalized in stable condition, the San Diego Union-Tribune reported Sunday.

The cause of death is unknown and under investigation.

Mullen joined the Navy last March, according to his Navy biography. He reported to SEAL training in July, the Union-Tribune said.

**Iran opposition leader trial:** The alleged leader of the militant wing of a U.S.-based Iranian opposition group went on trial Sunday, state

TV reported.

He's accused of planning a 2008 bombing at a mosque that killed 14 people and wounded 215.

In 2020, Iran's intelligence service detained Jamshid Sharmahd, an Iranian-German national and U.S. resident. Iran said he is the leader of Tondar, the militant wing of the opposition group Kingdom Assembly of Iran.

Sharmahd's family says he is only the spokesperson for the Kingdom Assembly of Iran and has accused Iran of kidnapping him in Dubai.

His hometown is Glendora, California, northeast of Los Angeles.

Sharmahd confessed to having a relationship with both the FBI and the CIA, state TV alleged. Sharmahd's family has accused Iran of keeping their father in "555 days of solitary confinement without charges" prior to the hearing.

At the time of his detention, Iran alleged Sharmahd was behind the 2008

bombing that targeted the Hosseynieh Seyed al-Shohada Mosque in the city of Shiraz and that he was planning other attacks around Iran.

**African cyclone:** Cyclone Batsirai's torrential winds and rain hammered Madagascar after landing on the island's east coast late Saturday.

An estimated 45,000 people have been displaced by the tropical storm, the National Office for Risk and Disaster Management said on Sunday.

After gaining strength in the Indian Ocean with gale-force winds reaching 145 mph, the cyclone made landfall near Mananjary, 310 miles east of the capital Antananarivo, according to the island's meteorology department.

After making landfall, winds dropped to about 80 mph.

Residents of Mananjary and two nearby towns report that the cyclone has

caused widespread damage by blowing the roofs off homes, knocking down trees and utility poles, making roads impassable and flooding many areas.

Much of Madagascar is already waterlogged from tropical storm Ana and heavy rains last month.

**Peru's PM resigns:** Peru's newly named prime minister resigned Saturday, a day after President Pedro Castillo announced that he will revamp his Cabinet yet again.

Hector Valer, the third prime minister in the six months of Castillo's government, said he was "machine-gunned by the newspapers."

Local media released police complaints from 2016 against Valer for domestic violence in which his wife and daughter accused him of physical aggression. Valer denied having assaulted them. His wife died in 2021.

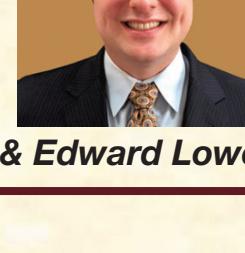
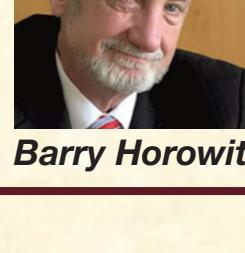
He is Peru's shortest-serving prime minister at just three days on the job.

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**Barry Horowitz & Edward Lowe**

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**"Can I protect my property from being taken by the state if I go into a nursing home?"**

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I teach many of the classes. I am a senior partner with the firm, and am a frequent speaker on trusts, wills, and proper estate planning. One of our associate attorneys, Edward Lowe, may be speaking. Attorney Lowe has been practicing law in Connecticut for 5 years, and is also dedicated to helping clients with their estate planning needs.

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## WORLD &amp; NATION

## Trump tirade zeros in on Black DAs

Critics: Ex-president ratcheting up racial rhetoric in remarks

By Bobby Caina Calvan  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Looking out at a sea of faces at a Texas fairground, most of them white, former President Donald Trump seethed about his legal troubles and blamed them on malicious prosecutors.

"These prosecutors are vicious, horrible people. They're racists and they're very sick, they're mentally sick," Trump said, before warning his audience: "In reality, they're not after me. They're after you."

Trump repeated his charge of racism, but skipped over an obvious detail: Those prosecutors are Black.

His diatribe left the impression that Trump, who rode the politics of white grievance into the White House, thinks he can't possibly be treated fairly by Black officials.

The comments carry the echoes of racist messages that have proliferated in recent years — that Black people and other minorities are taking power, and that they will exact revenge on white people, or at the very least treat white people as they have been treated.

That's among the fears stoking the white supremacy movement, the so-called white replacement theory, that people of color will supplant whites in the country's power dynamics and social structure.

"These are the same justifications that they use for Jim Crow laws and their mistreatment of African



Former President Trump rallies supporters during a speech Jan. 29 in Conroe, Texas. MERIDITH KOHUT/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Americans. So this is just a rerun of what we've seen in our country," said one Black district attorney, Brian Middleton, of Fort Bend County, Texas.

Trump has long been accused of bigotry.

Before the 2016 election, Trump called U.S. District Judge Gonzalo Curiel a "hater" who could not be fair to him in a fraud case involving Trump University because of the judge's Hispanic heritage and because Trump vowed to build a wall between the U.S. and Mexico.

And after 2017 demonstrations by white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia, turned violent, he said at a news conference

that there were "very fine people, on both sides."

He had never accused his prosecutors of racism before — but then, until the start of the year, one of those attorneys was Cyrus Vance Jr., who is white.

Now he faces an array of Black prosecutors: New York Attorney General Letitia James; Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, Vance's successor and the first Black person to hold that office; Fani Willis, the Fulton County, Georgia, DA; even Rep. Bennie Thompson, the leader of the congressional investigation into the U.S. Capitol insurrection on Jan. 6, 2021.

And critics say Trump's rhetoric has escalated,

perhaps because he recognizes that some among his base are receptive to more overt racism.

"It intensifies that discourse and makes it explicitly racial," said Casey Kelly, a communications professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln who for years has pored over transcripts of Trump's speeches.

At a recent rally in Arizona, he said — falsely — that white people in New York were being sent to the back of line for antiviral treatments.

And now Trump is using the investigations against him — and the prosecutors behind them — as "evidence of a larger systemic pattern

that white people don't have a place in the future of America and he's the only one that can fight on their behalf," Kelly said.

There is evidence that Trump's words have had consequences.

Willis, the Georgia prosecutor who asked a judge to impanel a special grand jury to help probe possible "criminal disruptions" by Trump and his allies during the 2020 presidential election and its aftermath, told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution that threats and racist slurs against her have increased since Trump's rally in Texas.

She called on the FBI to help assess security at the county courthouse and

provide personnel to protect the area against possible attack.

Trump has his defenders.

Harrison Fields, who worked in the Trump White House, is now a spokesman for Rep. Byron Donalds, R-Fla., a Trump ally and one of only two Black Republicans serving in the House.

He said the country has more important matters to tackle.

Donalds sees Trump's remarks as "a nonstory, as do about 98% of the American public, who are not in the media, or who are not in the Democrat Party," Fields said.

The flip side of Trump's aspersions of Black prosecutorial power is the argument that it has been too long in coming.

The country's system of law and order has long subjugated African Americans — from slavery through the days of Jim Crow until today, some would argue, as some states adopt anti-protest laws and tighter control over the ballot box.

Black inmates still disproportionately occupy jail and prison cells.

A 2019 study by the Reflective Democracy Campaign found that only 5% of the country's elected prosecutors were of color.

But Black men and women now lead some of the country's largest prosecutorial offices, including those in Chicago, Dallas, Detroit and New York.

Trump is questioning their legitimacy, said Diana Becton, another Black district attorney who serves in Contra Costa County in the San Francisco Bay Area.

"His accusations are certainly not subtle. They're frightening," Becton said.



Photos of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II light up a screen Sunday at Piccadilly Circus in London as she marks the 70th anniversary of her accession to the throne. ALBERTO PEZZALI/AP

## Queen uses 70th anniversary of rule to give Camilla a boost

By Danica Kirka  
Associated Press

LONDON — Queen Elizabeth II remembered the past and sought to cement the future of the monarchy Sunday as the United Kingdom marked the 70th anniversary of her rule.

In remarks delivered in time for Sunday morning's front pages, the monarch expressed a "sincere wish" that Prince Charles' wife, Camilla, should be known as "Queen Consort" when her son succeeds her as expected.

With those words, Elizabeth sought to answer once and for all questions about the status of Camilla, who was initially shunned by fans of the late Princess Diana, Charles' first wife.

"The queen is such a realist and, you know, she's got a business to run," historian Robert Lacey said. "Well, they call it 'The Firm.' don't they? And this really brings Camilla into the firm properly now and for the future."

Britain's longest-serving monarch, Queen Elizabeth II has been a constant presence as Britain navigated the end of empire right up to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In her statement Sunday, the monarch remembered the death of her father, King George VI, which elevated her to the throne, and recalled the seven decades of "extraordinary progress" that her reign has spanned. The queen, now 95, also renewed the pledge she made on her 21st birthday to devote her entire life to the service of the U.K. and the Commonwealth.

But it was her comments about Camilla that made news.

It took years for many in Britain to forgive Charles, whose admitted infidelity and longtime links to Camilla torpedoed his marriage to Diana, known as "the People's Princess." The mother of Princes William and Harry died in a Paris car crash in 1997, five years after her public split from Charles.

But the public mood has softened since Charles married Camilla Parker Bowles in 2005.

Now known as the Duchess of Cornwall, Camilla, 74, has taken on roles at more than 100 charities, focusing on a wide range of issues. With a down-to-Earth style and sense of humor, she

eventually won over many Britons.

Charles, 73, has long made it clear that he wants Camilla to be known as queen when he ultimately succeeds his mother on the throne. In his own message congratulating his mother's long years of service, Charles thanked her for her support.

"We are deeply conscious of the honor represented by my mother's wish," he said.

"As we have sought together to serve and support Her Majesty and the people of our communities, my darling wife has been my own steadfast support throughout."

For now, though, the queen remains on the job.

On Sunday, Buckingham Palace released a photo of the monarch sitting in front of her official red dispatch box with government papers spread out before her. The monarch spent the day at Sandringham, the country estate in eastern England where her father died Feb. 6, 1952.

While Sunday's anniversary was low-key, public celebrations of the platinum jubilee are scheduled for June.

## Haiti opposition calls on US to stop backing ruling party

By Maria Abi-Habib and Natalie Kitroeff  
The New York Times

A powerful Haitian opposition group is demanding the United States withdraw support for the government of Prime Minister Ariel Henry in Haiti, saying the administration's legitimacy is tarnished by delayed elections and Henry's potential connection to the assassination of the country's president.

The group, called the Montana Accord, wants the United States to act by Monday — the date on which President Jovenel Moïse had vowed to step down, before he was gunned down last year.

The government will be rendered unconstitutional by Monday, according to the Montana Accord and independent experts.

Afraid that Haiti may slip further into chaos, the United States for now is supporting the status quo: a ruling party that has governed for about a decade and seen the power of gangs explode across the country and corruption run rampant.

"When we look at the history of Haiti, it is replete with the international community reaching into Haitian politics and picking winners and losers," Brian Nichols, assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs, said in January.

The Montana Accord has called for the formation of a transitional government, with its leader, Fritz Alphonse Jean, at the helm to restore security before ultimately holding elections. By continuing to support the current government, the group says, the United States is essentially choosing a side.

"Insecurity is rampant; fear of kidnapping and rape are the everyday situation of the average Haitian," Jean said Friday.



Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry, right, may be connected to the assassination of the country's former president, an opposition group says. RICHARD PIERRE/GETTY-AFP

Henry formally in the assassination. Henry fired both officials.

Phone records obtained by The New York Times and an interview with another suspect also bolster those accusations. Henry has denied the allegations.

"The whole system is not trustworthy," said Monique Clesca, a member of the Montana Accord.

So far, American officials have dismissed the accusations against the prime minister while urging the government and the Montana Accord to achieve a consensus. Henry, a senior American official said in an interview this month, is viewed as a caretaker and does not have the United States' unconditional support.

Average Haitians are expressing skepticism.

"There's nothing to expect from the decision-makers; they always look out for themselves," said Vanessa Jacques, 29, an unemployed mother.

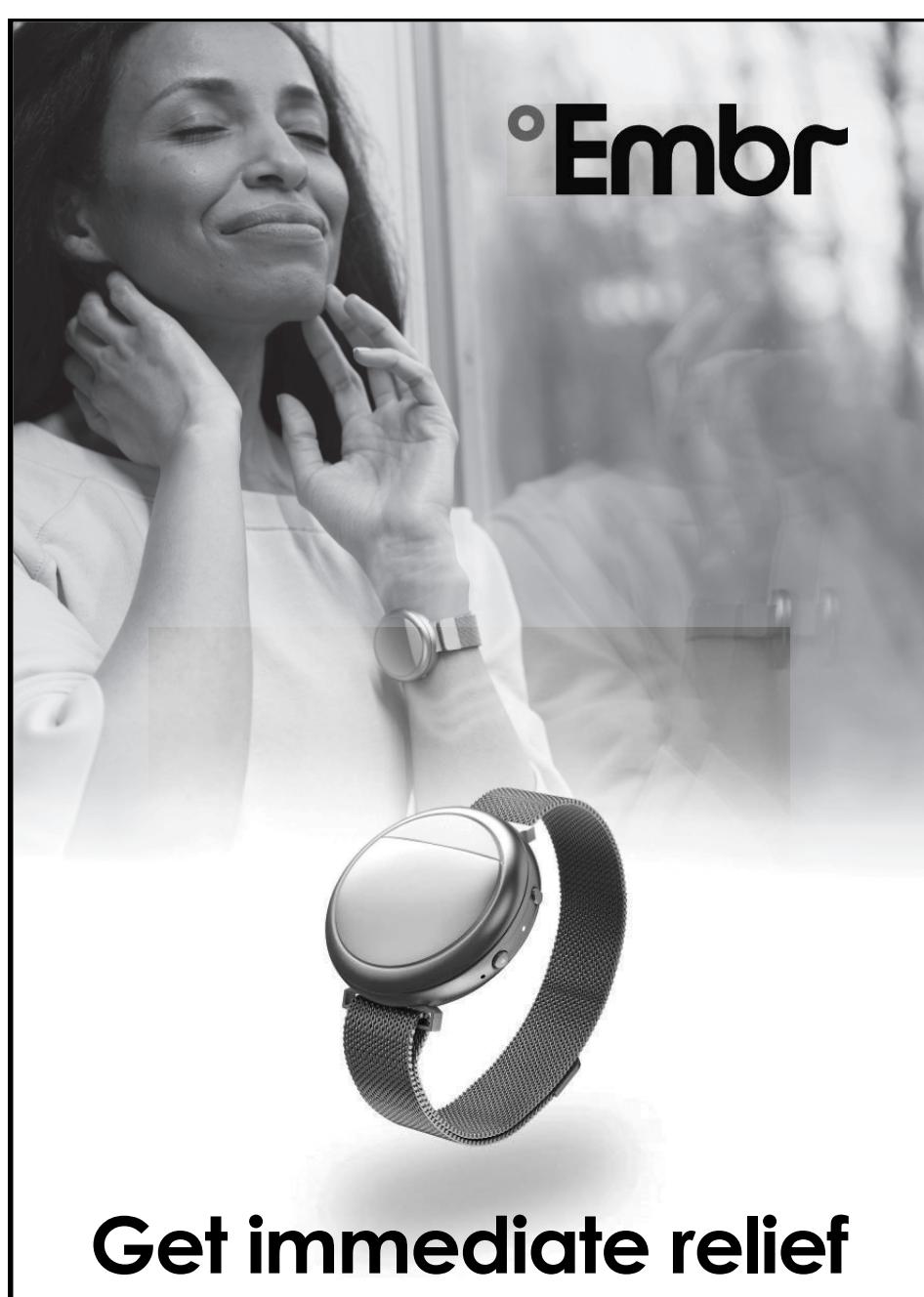
Recent presidential elections in Haiti have been plagued with issues. Moïse was elected in 2016 with only 600,000 votes, of a population of nearly 6 million eligible voters. His predecessor, Michel Martelly, was elected in a controversial election in which the United States was accused of intervening on his behalf.

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**Helen Bennett**  
Executive Editor  
hbennett@courant.com

# OPINION

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Politicians can learn from Buffalo Bills

It was instructive to watch the end of the Bills-Chiefs game when Kansas City won the coin toss to start overtime and then marched down field to score a touchdown to win while the Bills' offense never got a chance to reciprocate. You didn't hear the Bills' owner, players or coaches shout the game was stolen from them, or it was rigged. They might have felt it was unfair, but they accepted defeat and congratulated the other team. I say this is instructive, or should be, to our country. Thank you Bills for showing more class than some of our political leaders.

Mark Kirk, Mansfield

### Legislators should stand up to King Ned

So, King Ned Lamont wants the legislature to extend his executive powers again. Will this ever end? If legislators bow to the king again, they should put a stop to their paychecks. After all, fair is fair. If anyone stopped doing the job they are paid to do, they wouldn't collect a paycheck. If the legislature wants to turn over their responsibilities to the king, they shouldn't be paid either. We didn't vote them into office so they could sit around and do nothing.

Bruce A. Dubay, Moodus

### Kevin Rennie misses point on John Larson

Connecticut progressives recall and honor the courage of Congressman John Larson in opposing the Iraq War, even if Kevin Rennie does not [Insight, Page 1, Jan. 23 "Why some harsh political realities endure"]. That active, principled and patriotic opposition, not just some kind of political calculus, is what connects Congressman Larson and now-Gov. Ned Lamont. Rennie misses all that in his latest partisan effort to bash Connecticut Democrats. Of course, anyone has the right to challenge an incumbent, but when the incumbent is Congressman Larson, a progressive has very little rationale for doing so.

Ben Engel, West Hartford

### Do your part for the cause, like we did in World War II

If you don't agree that we are at war with a virus, then you are not going to agree with this letter. If you are against mandatory vaccinations, then you are against the draft during a war. This war we are in is not a limited or unjust war. No one is asking you to go on the front lines like a hospital worker. All we are asking is you do your part at home like we did in WWII, which was a real, justified war. Those who refuse to fight without good reason are nothing short of draft dodgers.

Vincent Curcuru, Simsbury

### Run your ads now and you won't get my vote

I don't know about you, but seeing political ads on TV 10 months before the election is just aggravating and, in no way, will change my opinion of that candidate. If anything, it makes me lean toward voting for the other guy.

Karen Maher, Plainville



If we want to keep kids in school, which according to leading medical experts is important for children's mental health, then having children wear masks is a proven strategy to prevent the spread of COVID-19 — and therefore keep kids in school, writes state Rep. Jillian Gilchrest. **GETTY**

## OP-ED

# Keeping kids in class is key to addressing mental health

And masking is a proven strategy to prevent spread of COVID-19 and keep schools open

By Jillian Gilchrest

One of my favorite courses in college was philosophy, in particular, logic. As emails from across the state flood my inbox from a vocal minority against the wearing of masks in schools, I am reminded of this course and the concept of "casual fallacy."

We have a very real mental health crisis taking place with regard to our young people. In October, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) and the Children's Hospital Association (CHA) declared a national state of emergency in child and adolescent mental health. I had the privilege of participating in a number of presentations from leading mental health experts across Connecticut to better understand this crisis and potential policy solutions to get children and families the support and services they need.

A number of my colleagues are working fastidiously to develop a package of policy recommendations that will be heard during the 2022 legislative session aimed at improving access to mental health care to help our state's young people. There are several variables at play when considering the childhood mental health crisis.

Many of these variables were present before the pandemic and have only been exacerbated during the past two years. The AAP, AACAP and CHA credit physical isolation, ongoing uncertainty, fear and grief as the leading causes for the increase in the childhood mental health crisis.

Some of the policy solutions recommended by these leading health organizations, experts in our state, and being considered by my colleagues, are "funding to ensure all families can access mental health services; improving access to telemedicine; supporting effective models of school-based mental health care; accelerating integration of mental health care in primary care pediatrics; strengthening efforts to reduce the risk of suicide in children and adolescents; and addressing workforce challenges and shortages so that children can access mental health services no matter where they live."

The emails I have been receiving seem to be generated from materials developed by a group calling itself the "Urgency of Normal."

They claim that the way to improve our children's mental health is to

remove school-based preventative health

measures including masks, quarantines

and social distancing. Their argument

is what is referred to in logic as a casual

fallacy — casual fallacies occur when an

argument incorrectly concludes that a

cause is related to an effect. They use

statistics on the mental health crisis to

argue for the removal of mask mandates

in schools in order to push an anti-mask

agenda. The argument is illogical at best

and disingenuous at worst.

If we want to keep kids in school and prevent quarantines, which according to the leading medical experts is important for children's mental health, then having children wear masks is a proven strategy to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (and therefore keep kids in school).

"But masks don't work," they will argue.

The CDC has said that cloth masks aren't as effective as surgical masks or N-95 masks, but they still recommend mask wearing as a preventative health measure. According to the CDC, "during July 15–Aug. 31, 2021, when delta was the predominant strain circulating in the U.S., about one in five K–12 public non-charter schools open for in-person learning in Maricopa and Pima counties, Arizona, experienced a school-associated outbreak. Outbreaks were three and a half times more likely in schools without mask mandates."

The leading preventative health measure recommended by the CDC is for students to be vaccinated against COVID-19, and while I do not know the definite stance that Urgency of Normal takes on vaccinations, their argument that unvaccinated healthy children face only a flu-like risk from COVID-19 is a telling sign that they aren't in favor of vaccinating their children.

Furthermore, the Urgency of Normal information on children and COVID-19 is false. COVID-19 can cause serious illness and hospitalization in children, and it can cause children to develop serious complications like multisystem inflammatory syndrome.

While I never became a philosophy major, I'm glad I took that course. I'll continue to listen to national and state experts and work with my colleagues to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our schools and address the state's childhood mental health crisis. Masks are helping to keep children in schools safely, and keeping children in schools is one very important way of supporting their mental health.

Jillian Gilchrest of West Hartford is a state representative for the 18th District.

## OP-ED

# The \$30 trillion sprint toward deficit disaster

By George F. Will  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — There is an exception to the federal government's general inability to accomplish anything briskly. It drove the national debt past \$30 trillion this past week, which only two years ago it had not been expected to accomplish until 2026.

Defenders of the government's fiscal performance say: Who could have predicted the pandemic? But that is the point — prudent people expect the unexpected and plan risk management accordingly. Instead, today's deficit doves are doubling down on their hubris, asserting (in the skeptical words of the Manhattan Institute's Brian Riedl) "that this time they can predict interest rates decades in advance." The average interest rate on government borrowing has fallen from 8.4% to 1.4% since 1990, a decline economists did not forecast but which many now forecast far into the future.

The soaring nominal interest rates of the 1970s were largely unanticipated by economic forecasters and Wall Street, as was the collapse of the housing bubble that triggered the 2008 recession. Nevertheless, such supremely confident experts foresee low yields on 10-year Treasury bonds until 2050. However, a rate of even just 5% — which Washington was paying in 2008 —

combined with merely modest new federal spending, would push the debt toward 300% of gross domestic product in three decades.

Riedl's "How Higher Interest Rates Could Push Washington Toward a Federal Debt Crisis" requires only a one-word edit: replace "could" with "will." Today's government debt is more than 100% of GDP (161%, if state and local debt is included), and the Congressional Budget Office sees more than 200%, anticipating \$112 trillion in deficits under current law — no new tax cuts, no new spending programs — over the next three decades. Even on these unreasonable assumptions, by 2051 interest on the debt will be the largest federal expenditure, consuming almost half of federal tax revenue.

Demography — the aging and longer-lived U.S. population — is the predictable destiny for Social Security and Medicare, the principal drivers of deficits, Riedl: "Over the next three decades, the costs of these programs will exceed their dedicated revenues (such as payroll taxes and senior premiums) by approximately \$20 trillion for Social Security and \$47 trillion for Medicare." This means huge infusions of general revenues, and \$45 trillion in increased interest costs.

Unlike homeowners, who can lock in

fixed-rate 30-year mortgages, "Washington," Riedl says, "overwhelmingly relies on short-term borrowing, with an average maturity of 69 months. Consequently, if interest rates rise at any point in the future, nearly the entire national debt will roll over into those higher rates within a decade."

High rates mean higher borrowing costs, which mean higher annual deficits, which mean more borrowing: a vicious circle. And even an interest rate of just 3% on debt at 250% of GDP would siphon up approximately 40% of tax revenue. Inflation amounts to repudiation, paying debts in devalued dollars, and as debt increases, so does the government's incentive to choose inflation.

Just one year before the pandemic became progressives' excuse for spending sums they think justice demands, Republicans ran a nearly \$1 trillion deficit with the economy growing and at full employment. Although congressional Democrats are by conviction even more profligate than Republicans are for political convenience, Republicans are more delusional, or pretend to be, about the possibility of restraint.

The Brookings Institution's Robert P. Beschel Jr., writing in *National Affairs*, notes that nine months ago the House Republican Study Committee — supposedly the most conservative House members — proposed a budget. It called,

Beschel says, for "deficit reductions of nearly \$12.5 trillion over the next decade without raising taxes — in fact, the RSC proposes another \$1.9 trillion in tax cuts," reaching a balanced budget by 2026 and reducing the national debt to 75% of GDP.

How? By a slew of politically inconceivable deep cuts to discretionary domestic spending, and cutting eligibility for Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and the Children's Health Insurance Program, and repealing significant parts of the Affordable Care Act. While the RSC was perpetrating this performance gesture, why didn't it also propose requiring lobsters to grow on trees?

This past week, as Washington passed the \$30 trillion mark, Washington's National Football League team, formerly the Redskins, renamed itself the Commanders. It disregarded this column's suggestion that the team should be called the Continuing Resolutions. This would have proudly embraced the durable bipartisanship that — never mind the surface rancor — defines today's national government: a bipartisan aversion to budgeting and a plucky refusal to be inhibited by any scarcity of revenues relative to political appetites.

George F. Will writes on politics and domestic and foreign affairs for *The Washington Post*.

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# Spinal Stenosis Back Pain? Sciatica? Herniated and/or Bulging Discs?

# No back surgery. Just Relief.

By Walter E Henderson, D.C.

Imagine how your life could change if you discovered the solution to your back pain. Well there's good news. Through the combination of proven scientific principles and technological developments, if you are a candidate, you now have a non-surgical option for your spinal stenosis or back pain.

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You are about to discover one of the most powerful non-invasive, non-surgical technologies available for: spinal stenosis, back pain, sciatica, bulging discs (single or multiple), degenerative disc disease, a relapse or failure following surgery or facet syndromes.

Best of all - for a limited time, you can see if you are a candidate and get an examination and cost quote with no obligation for care, advanced imaging not included. We encourage you to bring any x-rays or MRIs that you have.

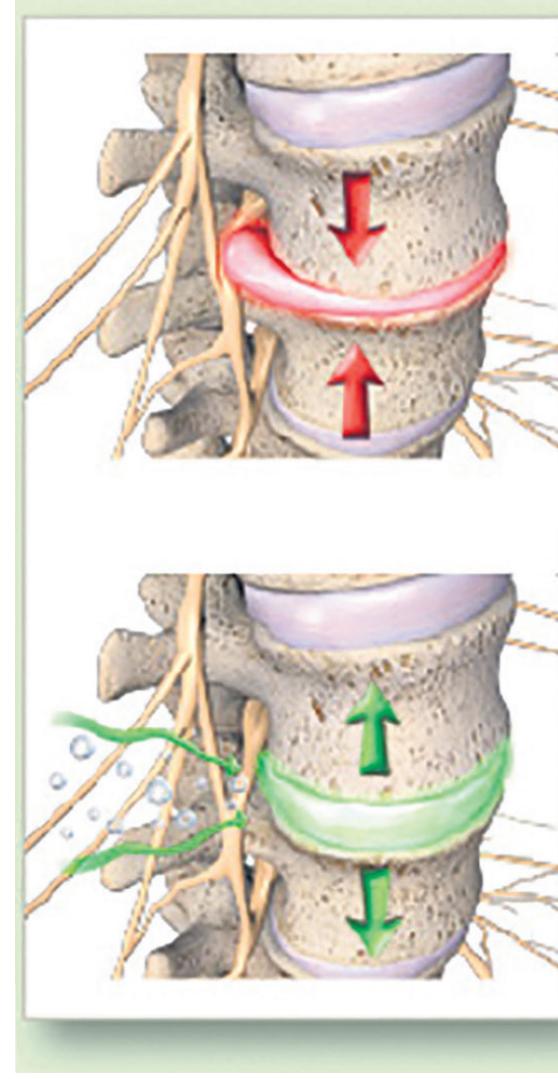
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The distractive forces utilize a logarithmic curve to avoid proprioceptor response, which would create a muscle spasm. The split table design decreases friction and allows separation of the vertebra, minimizing the effect of gravity.

Basically, you lay face up and the amazing DRX 9000 computer simulates an antigravity effect on your back that helps herniated material return to its normal position and stop the pain. Patients describe the experience as a gentle, painless, intermittent pulling or gentle stretching of your back...Many patients actually fall asleep during the treatment!



During normal activities the pressure inside the discs typically ranges between +100 mm/HG to +300 mm/HG

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## THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE SURGERY:

	Decompression Therapy	Surgery
Expense	Less than most deductibles, or hospital co-pays.	Hidden cost, deductibles, co-pays, inability to work
Danger	Other than mild soreness, we have had no reported negative side effects	Complications from surgery can be severe and leave you dependent on medications
Pain	Patients report it is painless	May be severe and long-lasting
Recovery	Fast	Long rehabilitation which may not work

## When do I see results?

In some cases you will feel results immediately. I have had several people notice improvement on the first day, others with more serious conditions usually notice after just a few sessions.

## What about surgery and medications?

Surgery can be dangerous and does not have any certain outcome. Along with a long expensive rehabilitation many medications are only designed to mask your pain, have side effects and can even be addictive.

## Here's What People are Saying

Hi, my name is Cindy from Enfield. I suffer from chronic back pain. I've done everything from surgery to cortisone shots to physical therapy. Nothing worked, I was miserable and couldn't work or sleep because of the pain. I read this article in the newspaper about this machine that can give me relief as well as give my life back. When I met with Dr. Henderson for the first time, I could barely walk without crying. He told me he could help me. I had nothing to lose at this point, I started treatments and it was the best decision I ever made. I can walk. I am back to work and I got my life back thanks to Dr. Henderson. I would recommend anyone with chronic pain to try this treatment. It works, I am living proof of that. I lost all my hope, then there was my miracle. Thanks Doc.  
C.F., Enfield, CT

I have suffered with sciatic leg pain for over three years. Every morning I would wake up with left leg and foot pain. The first treatment gave me relief and after a few more treatments my leg pain was practically gone.  
T.C., Simsbury, CT

## Am I a good candidate for this treatment?

Does your back pain keep you up at night?

Do you have pain into your legs?

Does activity make your back sore?

Are you taking medications for your pain?

Would you like to avoid surgery?

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If any of these questions pertain to you then you are ready to experience the healing power of the DRX9000!

## Is this therapy right for me?

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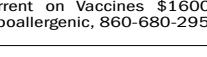
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### Hartford

#### LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF FARMINGTON PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday  
February 22, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the  
Town Hall Council Chambers on the Town  
Manager's Proposed Seven-Year Capital  
Improvement Plan.

Dated at Farmington, Connecticut this 7th  
day of February 2022.

Kathleen A. Blonski  
Town Manager  
2/7/22 713175

### Connecticut

#### Development Coordinator for Parkville Neighborhood Projects Hartford, Connecticut

The Capital Region Development Authority  
("CRDA"), a quasi-public agency of the  
State of Connecticut, is seeking a qualified  
contractor to serve as a development project  
coordinator in the Parkville neighborhood.  
Please see full posting and submission  
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### Liquor Notices

#### LIQUOR PERMIT NOTICE OF APPLICATION

This is to give notice that J. **FABIOLA BOWLES**, 25 OAKRIDGE DR. GRANBY, CT 06035-2318, Have filed an application placed on **01/31/2022** with the Department of Consumer Protection for a **RESTAURANT WINE & BEER PERMIT** for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at **83 SALMON BROOK ST**. The business will be owned by GRANBY CT 06035-2607. Entertainment will consist of: CIDERJACKS LLC. Objections must be filed by: No Live Entertainment .

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**OBITUARIES BY TOWN**

<b>Bloomfield</b> Ann P. Hamm	<b>New Britain</b> Ricardo Rios
<b>Enfield</b> Jeannette M. Benjamin	<b>Portland</b> Kathleen Mcmeken
<b>Hartford</b> Ann P. Hamm	<b>Windsor Locks</b> Jeannette M. Benjamin

\* Denotes name listing only.  
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

**OBITUARIES****Hamm, Ann P.**

Ann P. Hamm, 98 of Pittsfield, MA, passed away February 2, 2022 at Kimball Farms Nursing Care Center. She was born in Hartford, CT on September 15, 1923 to Salvatore and Sebastiana Cianci Lombardo. She was educated in Hartford, CT schools. Mrs. Hamm was primarily a homemaker, and at one time was employed by Big N, Zayres and the Infants and Toddlers Pre-school at the Girls Club.

She loved spending time with her grandchildren. Mrs. Hamm is survived by her sons, Howard W. Hamm II, of Pittsfield, and Donald J. Hamm and partner Michael Sirois of Boston, MA. Sister, Mary Lombardo of Wethersfield, CT; three grandchildren, Rachel Hamm-Gertz (Thadeus Ragan), Rebecca Heins (Randy) and Benjamin Hamm (Ani); and three great-grandchildren, Alexander Heins, William Hamm and David Hamm, as well as her former daughter-in-law Joanne Woitkowski, and other family and friends. She was predeceased by a great-granddaughter, Penny Heins and two brothers, Joseph and Sebastian Lombardo.

The family would like to thank the dedicated staff at Kimball Farms Nursing Care Center and Hospice Care of Western Mass. for their kindness and care. FUNERAL NOTICE: A Liturgy of Christian Burial will be held, WEDNESDAY, February 9, 2022 at 10 a.m. at St Patrick-St. Anthony Church in Hartford, CT. Burial will follow next to her parents at Mount St. Benedict Cemetery in Bloomfield, CT. An hour of visitation will precede the service from 8:15 to 9:15 a.m. at D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, Wethersfield, CT. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in her name to the Gladys Allen Brigham Community Center in care of Dery Funeral Home, 54 Bradford St, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

Please sign guestbook at [courant.com/obituaries](http://courant.com/obituaries)

**Benjamin, Jeannette M.**

Jeannette M. Benjamin, 98, of Enfield passed away peacefully on Friday, January 28, 2022. Born in Van Buren, ME on February 11, 1923, she was the first-born daughter and second oldest child of the late Frank and Gertrude (Levesque) Lajoie. In 1940, Jeannette made her great escape to Hartford and vowed never to return to Maine as there wasn't a darned thing to do! During WWII, she was proudly employed by Colt Firearms. Following WWII, Jeannette married Leon E. Benjamin in August of 1945 and had the privilege and joy of raising her five children in Windsor Locks. She is survived by 2 sons, Andrew Benjamin and his wife Chela of Fresno, CA, and Bruce Benjamin and his wife Joanne of Ludlow, MA; 7 grandchildren Andy, Brian, Matthew, Roxanne, Timothy, Brittany and Ashlyn; 3 great-grandchildren Kylie, Jackson and Luke; and 3 siblings, Robert Lajoie, Pam Barksdale and Pearl Lajoie and many nieces and nephews. Besides her husband, she was sadly predeceased by her daughter Linda Sedor, her twins Gary and Eugene Benjamin, as well as 11 brothers and sisters. Jeannette will be remembered fondly for her kindness, love, sense of humor and keen memory. Nothing brought her more happiness than spending time with her family and keeping the cleanest floors in New England (legend has it she taught the family cat to wipe his paws upon entering). Her door was always open, her smile always warm and her hugs always tight. Besides spending time with family, Jeannette enjoyed crocheting, playing cards, catching up with the latest celebrity gossip, Cool Whip, reminiscing about "the strap" and weekly visits with her youngest great-grandson Luke. Jeannette was a remarkable woman who exuded strength and a zest for life. Her family will celebrate her life and incredible legacy on Thursday, February 10, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Windsor Locks Funeral Home, 441 Spring St., Windsor Locks. A Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 12 noon at St. Robert Bellarmine Church with burial to follow in St. Mary's Cemetery, Windsor Locks.

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**OBITUARIES****Rios, Ricardo**

Ricardo Rios, 45, also known as Ricky, was born on June 22, 1976 in Hartford to Gilbert Rios and Sara Sanchez. He passed away January 31, 2022. Survived by his sisters Betty Sanchez, Enid Rios. Brothers, Orlando Sanchez, Randy Trice. Nephews, Steven Soto, Shawn Malave. Nieces, Stephanie Bones-Sanchez, Sarah Malave. Ricky also leaves behind several aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, and nieces who all adored him as much as he loved them. Calling hours will be held on Thursday, February 10, 2022 from 5PM until 7PM at New Britain Memorial Sagario Funeral Home, 444 Farmington Ave., New Britain, CT 06053. A Funeral Service will be held on Friday, February 11, 2022 at 10:30AM at the funeral home. Burial will immediately follow in Mt St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. Please visit [www.newbritain-sagario.com](http://www.newbritain-sagario.com) for photos, tributes, directions, and more information.

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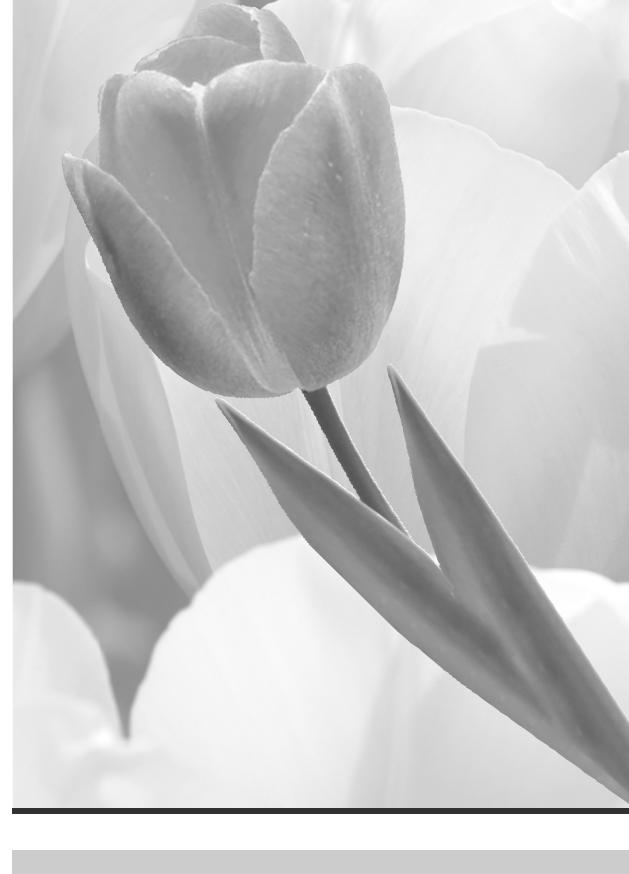
**McMeken, Kathleen**

Kathleen (Cashman) McMeken passed away peacefully Thursday afternoon in her home after a long battle with cancer. Kathleen, or Kathy as she was known by her friends, was born in Middletown to Muriel (Marks) and James Cashman of Portland. She was a student of the St. Mary's School and went on to graduate from Portland High School. She was the second daughter of 4, who were better known around town as "those Cashman sisters". After graduation she took a job with Travelers Insurance in Hartford, where she made many friends. Kathy met the love of her life, John (Jack) McMeken, at the age of 16. They were married April 25, 1964 and were rarely seen apart. Kathy left her job at Travelers to accompany John to Worms, Germany, where he was stationed with the Army. Kathy and Jack spent time traveling around Europe and frequenting the beer houses of Germany. When they returned to the states, they settled into their forever home in Portland. It wasn't long before they welcomed their son and life was complete. Kathy was a doting mother, an amazing friend and the "go-to" for her nieces and nephews. She loved having cookouts with family and neighbors, bowling in a local league, playing bocce with the girls and singing with "The Jackettes". Kathy is predeceased by her parents, her sister Maureen Prout and her husband Jack. She leaves behind her son Cliff McMeken of Portland, his wife Colleen and her granddaughters, Jaclyn and Brynn - the apples of her eye. She also leaves two sisters, Patricia Weidl and Susan Lavoie, both of Florida, as well many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends, all who would agree they were the lucky ones to have known and been loved by her.

Graveside services will be held at a later date in Swedish Cemetery, Portland. The Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St, Portland, is in charge of arrangements.

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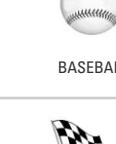
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## State contractor's past under scrutiny

Mask, COVID test supplier failed to pay fine for pension fund misuse for 12 years, records show

By Dave Altomari

CT Mirror

The Glastonbury businessman on the state's short list of suppliers for N95 masks and at-home COVID-19 tests once admitted to misappropriating more than \$1.8 million from his company's pension fund and then failed to pay off the fine for 12 years, according to federal court records and tax liens.

State officials said they were

aware of the federal investigation into the pension fund of Jeffrey Barlow's former company when they signed an \$18 million purchase order last month with his company, Jack Rubenstein CT LLC, to procure desperately needed at-home COVID-19 tests as the omicron variant began its surge in Connecticut.

Barlow never produced the tests, however, leaving Gov. Ned Lamont and other top officials scrambling for another solution.

This was the second time the state did business with Barlow. The first time was early in the pandemic, when Barlow used his connections as an importer of cell-phone parts and toy cars to procure N95 masks from China.

Barlow has no criminal history, but federal court records and tax liens filed in Glastonbury show that he had been investigated by the IRS and the FBI in New Haven from 2007 until 2019.

A spokeswoman for the Department of Administrative Services, which certified Barlow's company as a state vendor in March 2020, acknowledged the agency did not

conduct a background check on Barlow or his company at the time because the state was in the throes of a public health emergency, and state officials were scouring the globe for personal protective equipment as COVID-19 deaths, particularly in nursing homes, started to multiply.

"The procurement team does basic research on contractors even when we procure quickly," said Lora Rae Anderson, DAS spokeswoman. "This information regarding his offense from 2007 was known. It did not pose a risk to public health and safety, nor taxpayer dollars, as no payment

would be disbursed without receiving the product. Ensuring our residents have access to tools to stop the spread of a deadly virus remains our highest priority."

Anderson said state law doesn't require the agency to do background checks on brokers that were used during the pandemic.

"We are not required to complete background checks on those we enter into purchase orders with in order to procure tests and PPE," Anderson said. "The state provides a wide variety of products and services, and

**Turn to Contractor, Page 2**



Colleen Morgan founded Wild Alchemy Cafe in Wallingford in 2015 and has recently expanded into Avon. **SUSAN DUNNE PHOTOS/HARTFORD COURANT**

## Son's early health needs helped inspire vegan cafe

Wild Alchemy opens new location in Avon

By Susan Dunne

Hartford Courant

Wild Alchemy Café, which has served plant-based, raw, whole, organic foods in Wallingford since 2015, has opened a new location at 380 West Main St. in Avon to serve the breakfast and lunch crowd.

The café is a labor of motherly love by its founder, Colleen Morgan. Before she opened her first Wild Alchemy Café, she had no experience in the restaurant industry. Her interest in developing vegan dishes made with superfoods and natural spices and herbs began elsewhere, with her son's health difficulties.

"He was born in 2000 and quickly developed an extensive list of food allergies. He had his first ambulance ride when he was 4 months old," Morgan said. "He was



A mango lassi smoothie, a dragon smoothie bowl, a chaga pie and bottled juices are among menu items at Wild Alchemy.

chronically in respiratory distress. I thought I was doing a good job with him, but as he got older and we introduced new foods, he got sick again. For a time I thought he was dying. I can't tell you how many nights I slept on his bedroom floor."

Over the years, her son's allergies ebbed and flowed. He went from doctor to doctor, but the problems never really were solved.

Eventually, he was diagnosed with eosinophilic esophagitis.

"The doctor said he was never going to be entirely well," Morgan said. "I thought, you just wait and see."

In desperation, Morgan put him on a raw, plant-based diet. Three months later, her son had another endoscopy.

"He was healed," she said. "I

knew I had to get this into the hands of everyone else."

So Wild Alchemy was born at its flagship location at 60 North Colony Road in Wallingford, where Morgan lives. She later expanded to Southington and now in Avon, opening Jan. 28. The Southington store is temporarily closed due to trouble finding enough employees to operate three locations.

The Wallingford store is the commissary kitchen for all locations, and currently has a more extensive menu than the Avon location. Morgan said the Avon menu will grow and Southington will reopen when she is able to hire enough staff.

The Avon store sells smoothies, smoothie bowls and juices made of apple, carrot, kale, beet, mango, goji berries, dragonfruit, berries, coconut, coconut milk, almond milk, almond, almond butter, banana, sunflower seeds, date,

**Turn to Alchemy, Page 2**

## CT Port Authority deal in question

Watchdog says it didn't have power to launch partnership

By Keith Phaneuf

CT Mirror

The quasi-public Connecticut Port Authority, which is overseeing development of a major wind-to-energy project in Long Island Sound, allegedly launched a public-private partnership in 2020 without proper authority to do so, the State Contracting Standards Board concluded.

The watchdog agency also questioned the \$523,000 "success" fee the Connecticut Port Authority paid to a firm closely tied to a former member.

"This is just terrible in terms of open, fair bidding," contracting board Chairman Lawrence Fox said during Friday's meeting, held via teleconference. "I can't think of anything that is less fair."

The port authority and Gov. Ned Lamont announced a deal in February 2020 to work with Eversource and its Denmark-based partner, Ørsted North America, to transform New London into the green energy capital of the Northeast with an offshore wind farm ultimately capable of generating 4,000 megawatt hours of electricity.

The authority must seek from the state any project costs that exceed the private partners' investment of \$75 million, according to the port authority's executive director, John Henshaw. The current overall cost estimate exceeds \$220 million.

A state law permitting public-private partnerships had expired in January 2020, one month before the deal with Eversource and Ørsted North America had been executed. A 2021 statute would again allow public-private partnerships but only for the Department of Transportation.

More importantly, whenever such partnerships have been permitted, the legislature's budget-writing committees have been required to conduct public

**Turn to Partnership, Page 2**

## Quinnipiac to add business school, new residence hall

A general academic building will also be part of \$244M in projects

Staff report

Quinnipiac University will add two academic buildings, including a school of business, and a residence hall to its Mount Carmel campus, according to a university spokesman.

The Quinnipiac Board of Trustees approved the three new buildings that "will add innovative, modern learning and living spaces," according to the university.

"Construction of two academic buildings and a residence hall on what will become the South Quad will support students' learning and social development while



Quinnipiac University will add two academic buildings and a residence hall to its Mount Carmel campus, according to a university spokesman.

**QUINNIPAC UNIVERSITY RENDERING**

providing faculty state-of-the-art facilities for research, advanced pedagogy, and immersive learning approaches that model future careers for their students," the

university said in a statement.

The trustees approved \$244 million for the projects, "which

**Turn to Quinnipiac, Page 2**

## Man dies in shooting, car crash in Hartford

Hartford Courant

A serious car crash Sunday morning near the 2Cuzn's convenience store on Bellevue Street turned out to involve a fatal shooting, and Hartford police are now investigating it as a homicide.

Police so far are not discussing a motive for why 20-year-old Tyrik Walcott of Windsor was killed but said it doesn't appear to be a random attack. Walcott was Hartford's second homicide victim of the year.

Patrol officers were sent to Bellevue Street between Battles and Warren streets around 8:45 a.m. after a dark blue sedan apparently crashed into several fences and trees before ending up on the sidewalk.

"The operator was unconscious. He had to be extricated by firefighters," Lt. Aaron Boisvert said.

at a news conference. "When they pulled him out of the vehicle, they noticed he had a gunshot wound."

The victim was taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead. There will be an autopsy, but Boisvert said Sunday the gunshot wound appeared to be fatal.

"From what we gather now, this was an isolated incident," Boisvert said. "This wasn't a random attack."

Boisvert said Walcott, a 2019 Windsor High School graduate, appeared to have been alone in the car.

Hartford police have been addressing a recent spate of violence in the city.

A 22-year-old West Hartford man was fatally shot on Jan. 19.

A man also was shot in Hartford last Tuesday evening, police said — the third shooting in the

**Turn to Shooting, Page 2**

## CONNECTICUT

### Contractor

from Page 1

this is a policy discussion we would be happy to have understanding that every field is different."

There is no evidence that Barlow did anything fraudulent in trying to procure the at-home tests. Lamont and other state officials have only said that "misrepresentations were made" to state officials.

"We understand he believed he could get tests and was unable to get them by the promised date, as many have suffered supply chain issues during this time," Anderson said. "We don't have full visibility to where the tests went, but regardless, no taxpayer funds were lost, and we were able to pivot to another supplier who started delivering tests two days later than planned."

When it came time to look for at-home testing kits, DAS didn't send out a request for proposals because it was a "time sensitive issue" and instead contacted vendors it had used previously.

"The DAS Procurement team reached out to selected suppliers who had successfully provided PPE items earlier in response to the pandemic," Anderson said. "Jack Rubenstein & Company was one of those suppliers."

The state has since received and distributed millions of at-home test kits. Some of them came from CVS, which helped the Lamont administration by diverting more than a half million tests to Connecticut that were supposed to go elsewhere.

In response to questions about his past legal issues, Barlow texted a message to the CT Mirror, saying, "that matter was resolved many years ago and as such I have no comment as no current relevance due to being in excess of 10 years ago."

While Lamont never mentioned Jack Rubenstein CT LLC or Barlow by name, he did say, when asked, that the state would work with the broker again despite the failure to deliver in December.

The state signed another purchase order with Barlow on Jan. 11, agreeing to pay him \$2.46 million to deliver about 250,000 antigen at-home test kits.

It appears that Barlow has delivered some of that order. On Jan. 13, the state wired him \$2.3 million.

Meanwhile, experts in exporting and business said the state needs to have some standards, and they questioned why the state wouldn't require even a basic background check of potential vendors.

"You could certainly argue it's an emergency situation, one we seem to have been in for two years now, but there has to be some level of minimal standards that you adhere to, no matter what the situation, before you make a deal for the state government," said Victor R. Rodriguez, chairman of the Legal Studies & Political Science Department at the

University of New Haven.

Douglas Stein, a Chicago-based PPE exporter, said testing kits have become the new commodity for "an enormous underbelly of nefarious characters both in the United States and abroad" following N95 masks and nitrile gloves. Stein was speaking generally about brokers, not specifically about Barlow, whom he doesn't know.

Stein is a member of the PPE Fraud Coalition, a group of business owners who monitor possible fraudulent PPE being shipped to this country.

"It has continued to surprise me how easy it has been for some brokers or wholesalers to make it past state buyers without any background checks being done," Stein said. "The idea that someone could say that they could get the state 3 million test kits in a few days or even a week is just preposterous, given the limited supply and overwhelming demand right now."

#### Missing funds and IRS liens:

Barlow's legal troubles began in 2003 when an investigator from the U.S. Department of Labor received a complaint about money possibly missing from the pension fund for the employees of Macristy Industries Inc., a New Britain-based company owned by Barlow's family since 1972. It was shuttered in 2008.

The government eventually filed a civil complaint in U.S. District Court in New Haven accusing Barlow of transferring about \$1.8 million from the pension fund to keep the business operating. The consent judgment that resolved the DOL case indicated that he returned \$1.1 million to the pension plan and also paid an additional \$1 million to settle the case, court records show.

Barlow also agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$200,000, but when he failed to pay all of it, the labor department referred the case to federal officials in New Haven, who filed a second civil case alleging that Barlow fraudulently transferred his Glastonbury home to his wife so it couldn't be attached to any claim against him by the federal government.

In a consent order, Barlow agreed to pay the federal government \$500 a month until the remaining balance of his civil penalty, about \$58,000, was repaid, according to court records.

"We can confirm that he made payments to the satisfaction of our office and the DOL, and our office's collection case was closed in September 2019," said Thomas Carson, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office in New Haven.

The IRS also investigated why Barlow hadn't paid federal taxes from 2008 to 2011, records show.

The IRS eventually filed two tax liens alleging that Barlow hadn't paid \$779,056 in back taxes, according to records filed with the Glastonbury Town Clerk's office.

Barlow paid the IRS debt

by 2016, records show.

**Chance meeting:** It was apparently a chance meeting that led Barlow's new company, Jack Rubenstein CT LLC, to become a state vendor.

Rubenstein, which imported items from China until the pandemic hit in early 2020, was formed in 2010.

It was authorized by DAS as a state vendor on March 20, 2020, according to state records. Its first three checks for delivering PPE, for \$326,000, were cut on April 25, according to the state Comptroller's office.

Barlow told the Tulane University alumni magazine in an interview that "a state employee responsible for supplying hospitals saw him at the docks and approached him after noticing his capability to obtain hard-to-acquire equipment."

Barlow told the magazine "that chance meeting led to a \$2.5 million contract to supply much-needed hospital gowns."

As COVID infections spread across Connecticut in the spring of 2020, Gov. Lamont declared a state of emergency and waived many contract regulations.

As the state scrambled to obtain more PPE for health care workers, the DAS procurement team was handling hundreds of calls trying to decipher which proposals were real and which were potential scams.

Barlow was one of the vendors eventually certified to do business with the state.

Throughout 2020, Barlow supplied nearly \$15 million worth of PPE to the state, including N95 masks and hospital gowns, state records show.

**Better off picking up the phone:** Two years later, as the spread of the omicron variant coincided with the holidays, state officials realized they needed to quickly — and dramatically — increase testing availability.

So they turned to Barlow again and agreed to pay him more than \$18 million for what were supposed to be 1.5 million iHealth test kits. The purchase order was approved on Dec. 26; the next day Lamont held a press conference to announce the testing initiative.

But three days later, Lamont stood outside the East Hartford Fire Department and announced the tests weren't coming to Connecticut after all.

Without mentioning Barlow by name, Lamont said someone had "misrepresented" to state officials that the tests were destined for Connecticut.

The state did not lose any money on the deal with Barlow, a point that state officials have made several times. Barlow was only to be paid for what he delivered, which in this case was nothing.

*Dave Altomari is a reporter for The Connecticut Mirror (ctmirror.org). Copyright 2022 © The Connecticut Mirror.*

## Teen fatally hit by car identified

By Don Stacom

Hartford Courant

The 15-year-old girl who died after being hit by a car last week in Manchester was identified by police Sunday as Jennifer Nicolas of Hartford.

Police did not publicly release her name when she was hit Wednesday evening while walking near Howell Cheney Technical High School, where she was a student.

## Partnership

from Page 1

hearings on the matter — which didn't occur, the contracting board the draft report states.

"There is no record that the CPA had the statutory authority to execute a public-private partnership after January 1, 2020," it added.

In a written response attached to the report, the port authority contends it gained such powers when lawmakers established it in 2015 and ordered it to direct economic development at the state's deep water ports.

And while the agreement with Eversource and Ørsted North America actually refers to a public-private partnership, the port authority added in its comments that "the phrase 'public-private partnership' is widely used term and should not be taken to reference" the agreements regulated in state law.

The contracting board does not have authority to block the wind farm project and chiefly is limited to making recommendations to Lamont and the General Assembly.

The contracting board also voted Friday to ask Attorney General William Tong to clarify existing state law regarding "finder's fees."

The panel specifically is questioning whether the port authority violated that law when it paid \$700,000 to Seabury Capital Group in May 2018 to help with the search for an operator of the state pier in New London.

## Alchemy

from Page 1

pineapple, ginger, cinnamon, lavender, vanilla protein powder, lemon, cucumber, cilantro, turmeric, spinach, pear, celery, mint, hemp seeds, basil, romaine, cacao nibs, parsley and lime.

Other menu items are hot or iced tonics; elixir shots; pastries such as chocolate-date clusters, energy balls and cheeseless cheesecakes; as well as chili, spring rolls, falafel and cracker spreads. Wild Alchemy also

sells coffeeless coffee made from mushrooms.

Superfoods included in the recipes are chia seeds, maca, lacuma, baobab, mesquite, spirulina, bee pollen, cacao, chaga and reishi.

Foods are sweetened with organic maple, organic dates and raw honey. The honey and the bee pollen are the only non-vegan ingredients.

"Some vegans will eat honey and some won't," Morgan said. "We don't use it a lot."

Morgan said even people without health issues that benefit from plant-based

erating with investigators, according to Lt. Ryan Shea. Police on Sunday did not disclose his name or provide any new details of the accident. Further investigation is ongoing and is expected to take a lengthy amount of time to complete, Shea said in a police statement.

Anyone who may have witnessed the crash or has additional information should contact Officer Kevin Jackson at 860-533-8651.

Fox said afterward that contracting board members didn't draw comparisons lightly.

"It sounds like what happened at port authority is a kind of finder's fee by another name," he said. "We don't like this practice. We don't think there's a state benefit to this."

"Should we receive a request for an opinion from the State Contracting Review Board, we will review it," Tong's spokeswoman, Elizabeth Benton, said. "We have an open and active investigation into the Connecticut Port Authority and therefore cannot comment further."

If Tong concludes there was no violation of the finder's fee statute, Fox added, the authority will ask the legislature to expand existing law to prohibit such "success fees" in the future.

David Kooris, who became chairman of the port authority's board of directors in the summer of 2019 — one year after the Seabury contract was approved — said at Friday's meeting that "the port authority very much appreciates the thoughtful review."

Kooris also pledged that the authority would work with the contracting board and the legislature to further review these issues.

"We've got a lot to talk about in detail in the coming months," he said.

*Keith Phaneuf is a reporter for The Connecticut Mirror (ctmirror.org). Copyright 2022 © The Connecticut Mirror.*

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Ralph is a 6-year-old male who is nothing short of purrfection. He's very playful, handsome, loves attention and occasional belly rubs and even has a bit of fun mischief in him. He'll be sure to keep you entertained. He loves to eat and will chatter up a storm and trill when he's about to get food. After a good play session, he likes to lie on your chest and shower you with a little happy drool. He's looking for his forever home where he can be loved and have lots of playtime. Ideally he will do best as an only pet to be king of his castle. To learn more, please contact Our Companions at 860-242-9999 or email [Helpline@OurCompanions.org](mailto:Helpline@OurCompanions.org).

For more information or to submit a pet for adoption, please email [pets@courant.com](mailto:pets@courant.com).



### Max and Mini

Max and Mini are a very bonded brother and sister. They are 14 weeks old. Max lost one eye due to an upper respiratory infection. Mini is very active and Max follows her lead. We are asking they be adopted together. Call AFOC at 860-693-0303 for more information.

## Quinnipiac

from Page 1

will be funded through a combination of the university's endowment, philanthropic efforts and debt financing. The plan is in the design phase and is subject to necessary town approvals."

"This unprecedented set of investments, the first standalone new buildings on the Mount Carmel campus since the early '90s, will enable necessary investments in academic, research and student learning-living experiences at QU for years to come," Quinnipiac President Judy D. Olian said in the statement. "They are critical in achieving the ambitious goals articulated in our strategic plan as we create the University of the Future."

The university said that the three new buildings are:

**School of Business** — A 79,000-square-foot School of Business that will include a business innovation hub, a financial technology center, and an environmentally conscious central energy plant will be housed below it.

**General academic building** — A 137,000-square-foot facility, including state-of-

the-art wet and dry labs, greenhouse and vivarium, space to expand computing programs, classrooms, spaces for breakout and group study, deans' and faculty offices, and an auditorium that will seat 600-800 people.

**Residence hall** — A 417-bed residence hall that will include group gathering spaces, lounges and an outdoor courtyard.

"These new major building projects signify trustees' conviction about Quinnipiac's bright future," said Arthur H. Rice, chairman of Quinnipiac's Board of Trustees. "Quinnipiac has long been a leader in positioning its students for successful careers and fulfilling lives, and these buildings will add to these distinctions while supporting advanced faculty research and immersive teaching approaches."

The university also noted early building designs for the new residence hall will "explore installation of a green roof with live vegetation and/or solar panels for energy generation." The buildings will aim for LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, certification.

All buildings are scheduled to open in 2024.

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## NOW PLAYING

**CLEAN:** The gritty indie revenge thriller "Clean" is clearly a labor of love for Adrien Brody. Not only does he star as a garbage man who goes by the moniker Clean, but he also produced the film, composed the score, contributed original music and makes his feature screenwriting debut, as a co-writer on the screenplay with director Paul Solet. Clean lives and works in a blighted upstate New York town, where homes stand empty and criminal organizations run the streets. He's struggling with his past, tormented by nightmares, and so he puts his head down and goes to work, picking up the trash, attending recovery meetings and trying his best to do what he can around town, painting over graffiti on abandoned buildings, offering rides and meals to a young teenage girl, Dianda (Chandler Ari DuPont), who clearly reminds him of the young daughter who haunts his memories. Streaming on demand and digital. 1:34. 2 stars. — *Katie Walsh, Tribune News Service*

**ENCANTO:** The Disney Animation film "Encanto" sweeps audiences away to a colorful, enchanted world of Colombian magical realism, introducing the Madrigal family, who have each been granted extraordinary gifts, except one, our hero, Mirabel (Stefanie Beatriz), who has yet to discover her own personal magic. The Madrigal family magic was borne out of extreme trauma and pain, when matriarch Abuela Alma (Maria Cecilia Botero) lost her husband while fleeing violence in their village. In desperation, she cried out for protection

for herself and her infant triplets, and a magical candle raised mountains around a charmed casita, where she's raised her family since. Each Madrigal receives their gift in a coming-of-age ceremony. The only exception to the magical rule so far is the sweet, smart Mirabel, who never received her gift, and has since felt like the family outcast, bending over backward to earn her place among them. As she starts to see cracks in the foundation of their beloved casita, Mirabel probes deeper into the family's magic, and ultimately realizes that all of her family members are caught in the trap of perfectionism. 1:39. 3 stars. — *Katie Walsh*

**A HERO:** Asgar Farhadi's latest, "A Hero," boasts the filmmaker's usual high level of unassuming craft; a superb cast; and a couple of limitations, though not flaws, worth noting. The setting is the Iranian city of Shiraz. There, Rahim, played by Amir Jadidi with an air of serene resignation, has been jailed in debtors' prison. The scowling creditor controlling his fate helped Rahim start a business — he's a calligrapher and painter by trade — but he wants his loans repaid. Rahim needs money, quickly, in order to buy his way out of prison and settle the debts while on a two-day pass. Streaming on Amazon Prime Video. 2:07. 3 stars. — *Michael Phillips, Chicago Tribune*

**JACKASS FOREVER:** The opening sequence of "Jackass Forever" is one you'll never forget. It's a piece of filmmaking so bold, so audacious and so unbelievably, sublimely stupid that it will no doubt etch itself on your brain for years to

come. I don't dare describe it in print, because everyone deserves to discover it for themselves, but also because this publication wouldn't be able to print the details. Let's just say it's "Godzilla"-inspired, with a uniquely "Jackass" twist. "Sublimely stupid" is what the "Jackass" crew does best, and their formula (thankfully) hasn't wavered since the prank/stunt reality comedy show debuted on MTV in October 2000, and evolved into a film franchise spanning two decades. There's something comforting about the phrase, "I'm Johnny Knoxville, welcome to Jackass," even, no, especially if what comes next is a display of pure human agony and humiliation. 1:36. 3 stars. — *Katie Walsh*

**REDEEMING LOVE:** D.J. Caruso's historical drama/romance/morality play "Redeeming Love" opens with the Shakespeare quote "all that glitters is not gold," and a pair of hands thrusting a pan into a river, searching for treasure. It sets the time and place in Gold Rush-era California, in the town of Pair-a-Dice circa 1850, but the quote has no bearing on the tale that unfolds over the next two hours, based on the smash hit 1991 novel by Francine Rivers. There may be gold in them thar hills, but "Redeeming Love" doesn't yield any cinematic riches. Our hero in need of redeeming is Angel (Abigail Cowen), a sex worker and the hottest ticket in Pair-a-Dice, her time raffled off by the Duchess (Famke Janssen) to a frothing mob of men that gathers daily in front of the Palace brothel. As a child, Angel was trafficked into sex work by a smooth pimp named Duke (Eric Dane) after the death

of her destitute mother (Nina Dobrev), who seems to waste away from shame after she and her daughter are rejected by Angel's father, who is married to another woman. For her part, Angel doesn't seem to mind her life in Pair-a-Dice all that much, though a knight in dusty denim will soon shake things up. 2:14. 1 1/2 stars. — *Katie Walsh*

**SCREAM:** What made "Scream" so revolutionary in 1996 was its ironic self-reflection; a slasher movie that plucked the genre from the straight-to-VHS discount bin and held it up as art by dissecting all of the rules and conventions of its formula, while turning a mirror on the media landscape. Kevin Williamson wrote witty, wordy reams of dialogue for these characters, rat-a-tat analyses of horror tropes that made "Scream" something of a screwball slasher. If they knew the rules, they could survive the night, or so the wisdom goes. Once again, "Scream" is telling it like it is, and it's even blunter this time. And that's not the only cultural commentary this film has to dish out. The killer behind the Ghostface mask will inevitably deliver a delicious monologue explaining their motivations: Did the movies make them do it? Or did they want to make it into the movies? Is there a difference? "Scream" has always had a finger on the pulse of the cultural anxieties around media effects, and this time, they've scraped the arguments that rage constantly through the internet mob for their villainous motives. In a world full of requels, you'll be glad Ghostface picked up the knife one more time. 1:54. 3 stars. — *Katie Walsh*



Machine Gun Kelly, left, and Johnny Knoxville in "Jackass Forever." **SEAN CLIVER/PARAMOUNT PICTURES**

**SPIDER-MAN: NO WAY HOME:**

Casting Tom Holland as Peter Parker was one of the sharper decisions to emerge from the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Holland provides the glue and the webbing for "Spider-Man: No Way Home." Director Jon Watts and screenwriters Chris McKenna and Erik Sommers deliver an extremely busy, generally entertaining venture into the MCU multiverse of alternate timelines, competing versions of the same character and swirling trippiness. If you caught the animated and extremely deft 2018 "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse," you'll get the idea. This film has little of that film's visual invention but a good deal of its verbal wit. 2:28. 3 stars. — *Michael Phillips*

**THE WORST PERSON IN THE WORLD:** Throughout Norwegian filmmaker Joachim Trier's humanist, candid and melan-

cholic Oslo-set romantic drama, "The Worst Person in the World," you may find yourself wondering who the titular character might be. Is it Julie (Renata Reinsve), the indecisive, impulsive, entrancing hero at the center of the story? Is it Aksel (Anders Danielsen Lie), Julie's older boyfriend, a brilliant, edgy comic book artist? Is it the sweetly submissive Eivind (Herbert Nordrum) one of Julie's other suitors? The truth is that none of them are "the worst" even if they may, at times, feel that way; indeed it's their fumbling, failing, flailing attempts to run toward happiness that make them so relatable, and ultimately, lovable. "The Worst Person in the World" is incredibly good company, as it turns out. In Norwegian with English subtitles. 2:07. 4 stars. — *Katie Walsh*

**RATINGS:** The movies listed are rated according to the following key: 4 stars, excellent; 3 stars, good; 2 stars, fair; 1 star, poor.

## CELEBRITIES

## Winfrey plans film version of musical

From news services

Oprah Winfrey is bringing her life-changing experiences from "The Color Purple" to a new generation.

The TV mogul, who earned an Academy Award nomination for her role in Steven Spielberg's 1985 adaptation of Alice Walker's novel, has put together an all-star ensemble for the big-screen musical remake, she recently announced.

The Warner Bros. film will be directed by Blitz Bazawule and stars Fantasia Taylor (Celie), Colman Domingo (Celie's abusive husband Mister), Danielle Brooks (Sofia), Halle Bailey (Celie's sister Nettie), Corey Hawkins (Harpo), musician H.E.R. (Squeak) and Taraji P. Henson (Shug Avery).

"This ain't your mama's 'Color Purple,'" Winfrey said in *Vanity Fair*, describing the new take on Alice Walker's letter-driven novel about Celie — a poor, unloved, Southern Black girl the early 1900s who endures childhood rape, a brutalizing marriage and other harrowing experiences over the book's decadeslong span.

The musical version of "The Color Purple" opened on Broadway in 2005. It later won a Tony Award for best revival in 2015, and has been touring the world since. The show was produced by Winfrey and Broadway veteran Scott Sanders, who are also producing the big-screen adaption along with Spielberg and the film's original composer, Quincy Jones. Walker also serves as an executive producer on the film.

The movie musical begins shooting in Georgia next month and is slated to open in theaters on Dec. 20, 2023.

Though Winfrey lamented not having a part to play in the musical, she was proud to have Brooks



Oprah Winfrey has announced a big-screen musical remake of "The Color Purple." **JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION 2019**

and the new cast succeed her.

"There's nothing I would want more than if there could be a part for me, but I think there isn't. I had my day, and that time has now come and gone. I have passed the baton and I feel really, really great about that," she told *Vanity Fair*.

**Lee to direct Kaepernick docuseries:** Spike Lee will direct a multipart documentary for ESPN on Colin Kaepernick that features extensive interviews with the former San Francisco 49ers quarterback and access to his personal archive.

ESPN Films recently announced that Lee would weave never-before-seen footage from Kaepernick's archive to provide a full, first-person account of his journey.

Kaepernick last played pro football in 2016, the same year he

started kneeling during the national anthem to protest racial injustice. Although the NFL has encouraged teams to look at Kaepernick, he has yet to receive another pro contract.

No title or release date for the docuseries was announced.

Lee directed the 2009 film, "Kobe Doin' Work," on Lakers great Kobe Bryant. That film examined Bryant's work ethic and basketball prowess through a single Lakers game.

**Feb. 7 birthdays:** Comedian Robert Smigel is 62. Actor James Spader is 62. Singer Garth Brooks is 60. Keyboardist David Bryan is 60. Comedian Chris Rock is 57. Actor Jason Gedrick is 57. Actor Essence Atkins is 50. Guitarist Wes Borland is 47. Actor Ashton Kutcher is 44. Actor Tina Majorino is 37. Actor Debrah Ann Woll is 37.



## ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

## Text discovery brings on moment of clarity

**Dear Amy:** Recently my husband and I were vacationing. While enjoying the view of the water, I asked to borrow his phone since mine was back in the hotel room.

I took a photo and was texting it to the kids when another photo popped up of a woman in a bathrobe with tousled hair. This is the same woman he had an affair with 30 years ago. He swears he has had nothing to do with her and that she just sent that photo out of the blue.

Please. Clearly, he never broke it off with her if she still had his number and was texting him. He has said that she is still just a work associate, but that is just hurtful and deceitful, too. He says he loves me and that I am his life. But now, I can't believe a word he says.

I feel like I am seeing him accurately for the first time in our 37-year marriage. I know he has made other questionable comments to friends regarding women.

I am in my 60s and need to start a new life. Any suggestions?

— *The Blind Wife*

**Dear Wife:** Every new life starts with one moment.

This photo obviously has triggered extreme feelings and dormant suspicions for you, and you should let this tough episode lead you into a marriage counselor's office.

Relationship counseling cannot always save marriages — but it can help you to reach the next moment. Counseling can help you to break up (if that's where you're headed), while preserving some of the good moments

from your long marriage.

With your marriage on the brink, you and your husband should be inspired to communicate honestly. A neutral person can help to mediate.

You should also see a lawyer on your own and research the divorce laws where you live.

Relationship therapy and legal consultation are not mutually exclusive — in fact, this combination should be empowering.

**Dear Amy:** My husband's older brother "Matt" has always been a little "off" — impulsive, immature and completely dependent on his parents (he's 45).

The pandemic really hit him hard, and he went through a severe depression, which put him on a number of medications, and he was diagnosed with bipolar disorder.

Late last year, he went off his meds, and on Christmas Eve night, he had a psychotic break and attacked me with a knife.

I'm thankfully OK and unhurt, but he is still not well, and now my in-laws want me to forgive and forget for the sake of the family. My brother-in-law was never kind to me. Now he wants to apologize, but "only if he can do it in person."

**Dear Amy:** A recent statement in your column has given me solace!

You wrote: "You mourn because you experienced the privilege of being loved."

My husband passed away in 2019. We had been together for over 25 years. I repeat that statement to myself whenever I feel so terribly low. The statement has made my loss more bearable.

— *At Peace*

**Dear At Peace:** I'm happy you've found this helpful.

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# 'Peacemaker' puts John Cena film character in topical light

By John Carucci  
Associated Press

In last year's "The Suicide Squad," John Cena's Peacemaker is a jingoistic, bigoted superhero. Transferring the DC Comics character to a TV series spinoff gave writer-director James Gunn a forum to hold the flawed character to the light in these days of political divide.

Cena, one of the biggest stars of World Wrestling Entertainment, said he was used to playing a loud-mouthed character, with a slight caveat — his wrestling persona was moral.

"He was as close to a real-life superhero, that character, as you can get," Cena said. "His core value is virtue."

But "Peacemaker is flawed and shattered," said the actor. Cena says it was "liberating" to explore such "non-virtuous behavior" in the Peacemaker character, yet despite his attempts at good deeds, he was unsure if the character was redeemable.

"We see him do this just dastardly nefarious stuff in 'The Suicide Squad,'" Cena said. "Peacemaker has a lot of work ahead of him if he's brave enough to face the man in the mirror."

Being able to play that kind of anti-hero in the "Peacemaker" series, now streaming on HBO Max, might be Cena's biggest challenge to date, but Gunn was sure he'd be up to it.

Gunn said he sees a strong screen presence in Cena and more: He describes it as an ability "to express a depth of emotion that is rare in actors, much less wrestlers turned actors."

Writing all eight episodes, and directing five, Gunn had the chance to introduce more political elements than in



John Cena stars in the title role of "Peacemaker." HBO MAX

"The Suicide Squad." To add further layers, Gunn partners Peacemaker, aka Christopher Smith, with his diametric opposite, Leota Adebayo, played by Danielle Brooks ("Orange is the New Black").

"I wanted to present two characters who were on completely different sides of the political spectrum ... who had very differing beliefs and yet also had an instant chemistry with each other," Gunn said.

Adebayo is disgusted by many of Peacemaker's beliefs but sees the sadness of the guy underneath.

"That kindness is what, you know, what we could really use more of in the world. And so that's what interested me," he said.

The story of redemption is one that doesn't escape Gunn. No stranger to controversy, he was fired from the "Guardians of the Galaxy" franchise after some questionable tweets resurfaced. But after an outpouring of support, Gunn was rehired and continued with the franchise.

"There is a lack of kindness in the world, and that

somehow, people think that the way to change people's minds is to yell at each other on Twitter over what they believe. And that only makes things more extreme. They are in fact, serving the radical beliefs that they are so wholeheartedly against with the yelling," Gunn said.

He added: "The biggest problem ... today is us dehumanizing the people that disagree with us," and "that's on all sides of politics."

But that line stops at Auggie Smith, the white racist father of Peacemaker. "Peacemaker is a different story. He's not Smith. He's not purposefully wanting to murder certain portions of the population," Gunn said.

Robert Patrick, who plays Peacemaker's dad, had faith in repeating Gunn's dialogue.

"This is obviously a very abusive father who blames Chris for the death of his other son, so there's some favoritism things there," Patrick said. "He's just a horrible man. Not the kind of dad you want which is, I think, the point."

## HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

### Aries (March 21-April 19):

You may feel weighed down by your possessions just now. Clear some of them out! Others may be able to use them more than you do. Whether you give things away, have a garage sale or list things online, the effect will be the same.

### Taurus (April 20-May 20):

Today is a day of relying on yourself. That doesn't mean you're necessarily on your own — unless you want to be. Still, it's likely that you can get more done by focusing on what you're capable of achieving without help. It's up to you to take the first step! Doing things your way will be easier if you take the lead.

### Gemini (May 21-June 20):

Acting on impulse could be your downfall. You may react before thinking things through. What feels like the right move in the moment could make things worse. The trick is not to rush any decisions, especially because you may not know everything about the situation. Do nothing.

### Cancer (June 21-July 22):

The advice you receive today could also be hard to follow. No matter how well-intentioned people are, their main focus is likely on themselves. A helping hand is always good, but some people offer the wrong hand entirely. You may be pleasantly surprised.

### Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):

Someone close to you may seem distant today, but don't panic! They probably just have other things on their mind. Either way,

it's OK not to spend every moment with your loved ones. You could see this as an opportunity to do something you never got around to before.

### Leo (July 23-Aug. 22):

A burst of efficiency could make you get a lot done right now. You've still got this! Your energy level may be higher than usual, meaning you can charge about and help the world shape up — even before stopping for a nice cup of coffee. Beware of any offer that comes your way.

### Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):

Being pragmatic can take you a long way right now — even if you aren't usually the most organized sign. It could be frustrating, but you can't force people to stick to a routine. Try not to fret too much. Let the results of your good work speak for themselves! You might have to wait.

### Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):

Dreamland could feel like a lovely place to spend your day. Letting thoughts run wild might help you sort out what will work for you later. You need to ensure that you're grounded in reality before acting on your bright ideas. Being focused on the bigger picture means you might ignore details.

### Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):

Your domestic obligations could feel like a real drag at this time. As soon as you've dealt with one task, another might demand your attention. Will the world really end if you leave some of those tasks for a day or two? You can probably create a little bit of space to enjoy yourself.

### Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):

Listen to gossip today. You could be downright astonished by what you hear! Perhaps you had thought of a certain person in a particular way, and they've turned out to be someone entirely different. It may also make you see a situation in a new light. Hearsay isn't the most reliable.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

**On Feb. 7, 1857**, a French court acquitted author Gustave Flaubert of obscenity for his serialized novel "Madame Bovary."

**In 1943**, the government abruptly announced that

wartime rationing of shoes made of leather would go into effect, limiting consumers to buying three pairs per person per year.

**In 1962**, President John F. Kennedy imposed a full trade embargo on Cuba.

**In 1984**, space shuttle Challenger astronauts Bruce McCandless II and Robert L. Stewart went on the first untethered spacewalk.

**In 1999**, Jordan's King Hussein died of cancer at age 63; he was succeeded by his eldest son, Abdullah.

**In 2009**, a miles-wide section of ice in Lake Erie broke away from the Ohio shoreline, trapping about 135 fishermen, some for as long as four hours before they could be rescued.

**In 2014**, the Sochi Olympics opened.

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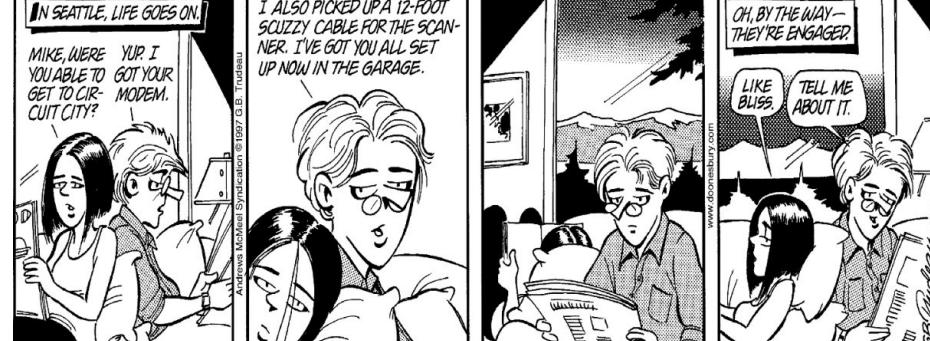
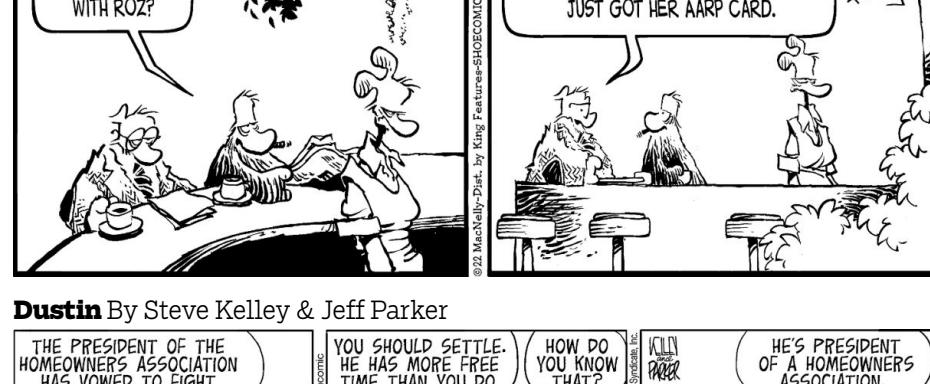
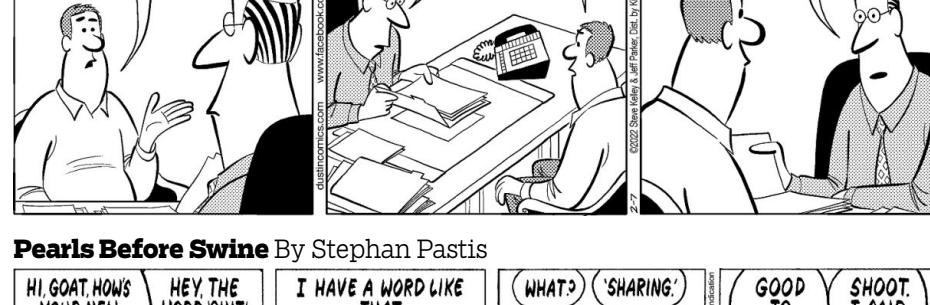
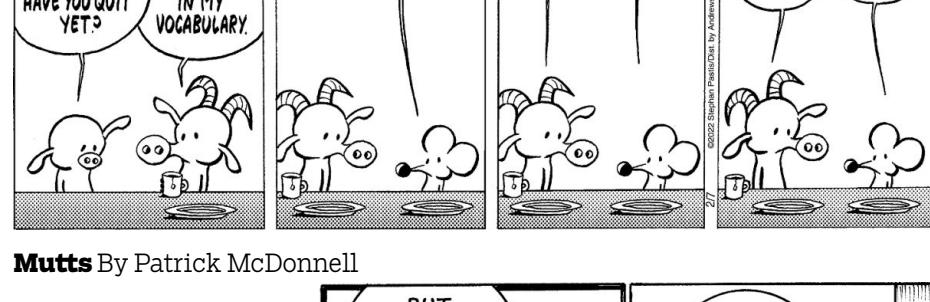
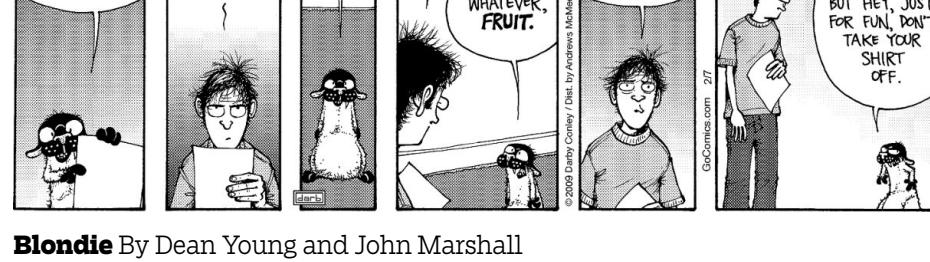
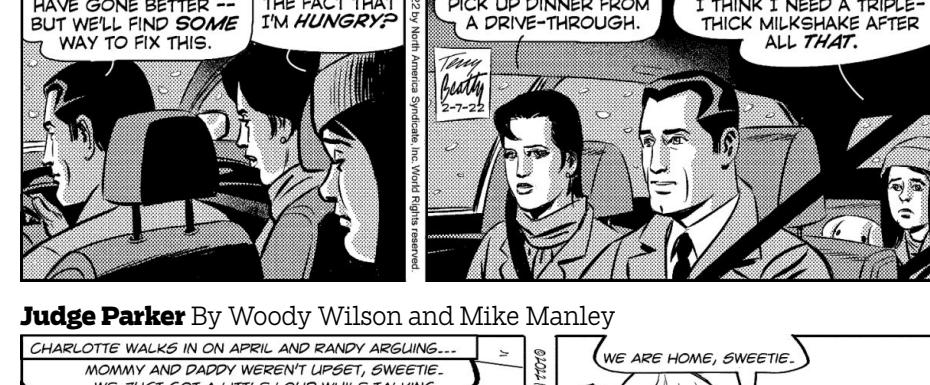
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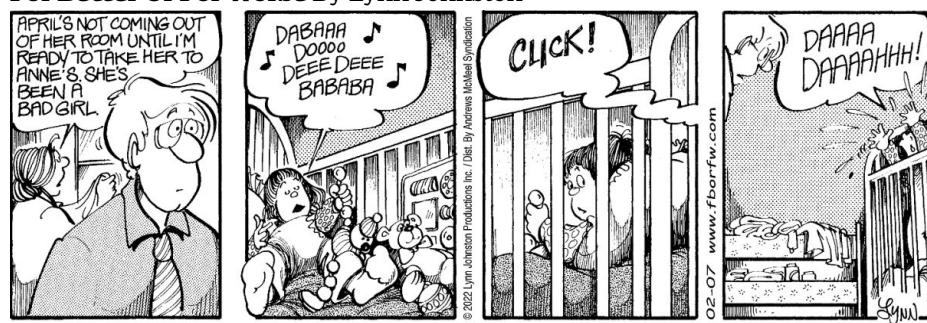
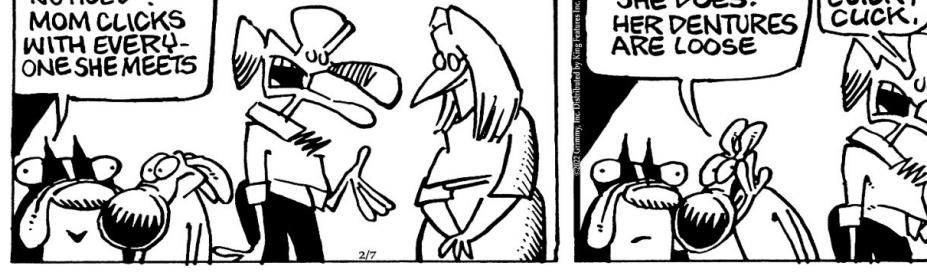
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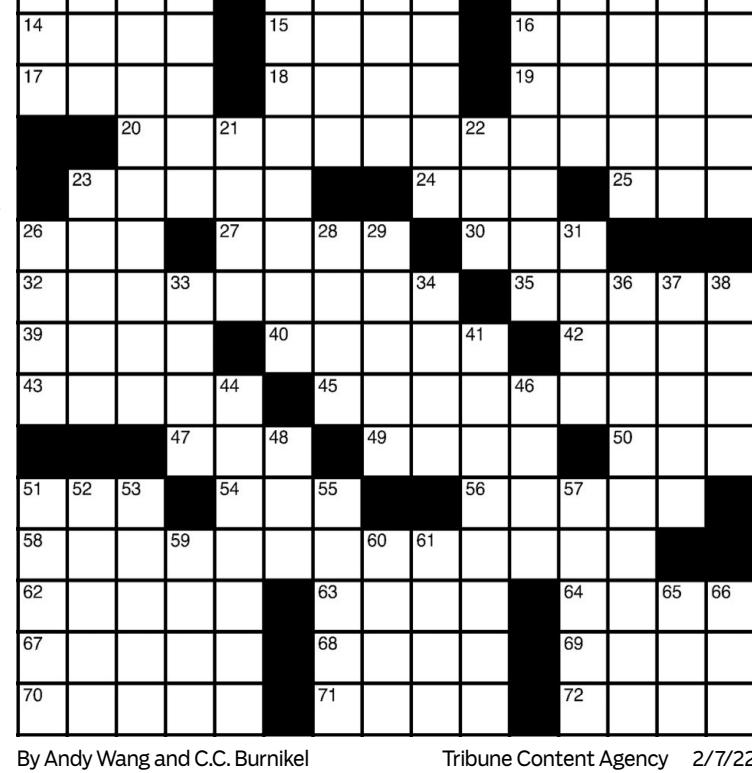
**For Better Or For Worse** By Lynn Johnston**B.C.** By Hart**Beetle Bailey** by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker**Hi & Lois** By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne**Hagar The Horrible** By Chris Browne**Non Sequitur** By Wiley Miller**Curtis** By Ray Billingsley**Pickles** By Brian Crane**Zits** By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman**Rose Is Rose** By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer**Mother Goose And Grimm** By Mike Peters**CROSSWORD**

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

**Across**

1 Has a balance due  
 5 Fish with valuable roe  
 9 Jeweler's weight unit  
 14 Extra-long dress  
 15 "Those \_\_ the days!"  
 16 Sister company of Enterprise Rent-A-Car  
 17 Wide smile  
 18 Arab League dignitary  
 19 "The Thinker" sculptor  
 20 Gets trounced  
 23 Crime scene clue exposed by dusting  
 24 Candied veggie  
 25 Apple operating system  
 26 "I get it now!"  
 27 Palindromic man's name  
 30 Royal flush card  
 32 Cubs' caretakers  
 35 Foamy hot drink  
 39 "College GameDay" channel  
 40 Vinyl collectible  
 42 Pork or beef  
 43 Tree houses  
 45 Veggies from Peru  
 47 Approx. landing hr.  
 49 Ripped apart  
 50 Cloud's place  
 51 Govt. Rx watchdog  
 54 Fútbol cheer  
 56 Caribbean cruise stops  
 58 Home of the Metropolitan Opera ... and a hint to the

"honest" guy hiding in 20-, 32- and 45-Across  
 62 Like much beer at a bar  
 63 "Et voilà!"  
 64 Slack-jawed look  
 67 Salary increase  
 68 Managed, with "out"  
 69 Brainstorm  
 70 Like a javelin's path  
 71 Russo of "Tin Cup"  
 72 Russian autocrat  
 13 Salad bar pair  
 21 Etch A Sketch control  
 22 Have a bite  
 23 Temporary stage  
 26 "I feel the same way!"  
 28 Starbucks size after Short  
 29 Planet's path  
 31 Birth certificate entry  
 33 Initial poker stake  
 34 Osaka wrestler  
 36 Promos to pique interest  
 37 Homes for pet fish  
 38 Site with homemade gifts  
 41 Pre-grilling sauce  
 44 Bent down  
 46 Second to none  
 48 Every one  
 51 Plant life  
 52 Bahrain currency  
 53 Playful prank  
 55 Large keyboard key  
 57 On the level  
 59 Social worker's assignment  
 60 Birthday candle holder  
 61 Genesis garden  
 65 Split \_\_ soup  
 66 Organ with a canal



By Andy Wang and C.C. Burnikel

Tribune Content Agency 2/7/22

**BRIDGE**

BY STEVE BECKER

South dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**

♦ K J 7 6 3 2  
 ♦ K 5 3  
 ♦ J 8  
 ♦ Q J

**WEST**

♦ Q 5  
 ♦ 10 6  
 ♦ K Q 10 7 3 2  
 ♦ A 5 3

**EAST**

♦ A 10 9 8  
 ♦ 9 4 2  
 ♦ 4  
 ♦ 10 9 7 4 2

**SOUTH**

♦ 4  
 ♦ A Q J 8 7  
 ♦ A 9 6 5  
 ♦ K 8 6

The bidding:

South 1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 NT\* East Pass

4 ♠

\*heart raise

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

**Famous hand**

The United States scored the most lopsided victory in the 70-year history of the Bermuda Bowl, routing Brazil 506-288 in the final of the 2000 world team championship. The margin (in International Match Points) and the winning team's IMP total were both records for the event.

The 16-day competition, which started with 20 teams, came down to a showdown between the U.S. squad, composed of Bob Hamman, Paul Soloway, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell, Nick Nickell and Richard Freeman, and Brazil's Gabriel Chagas, Marcelo Branco, Ricardo Janz, Miguel Villas-Boas, Joao-Paulo Campos and Roberto de Mello.

The final was a virtual runaway for the Americans from the very outset. Today's deal resulted in a 12-IMP pickup for the winners.

At the first table, Meckstroth, playing in four hearts, won the king-of-diamonds lead with the ace and led the spade four to dummy's king. East won and returned

a club to West's ace, whereupon West cashed the queen of diamonds and continued with the deuce.

Meckstroth trumped the diamond with dummy's king and ruffed a spade, felling West's queen. Declarer then drew trump, crossed to the club queen and discarded his remaining diamond on the spade jack to make his game.

At the other table, Chagas, one of the world's great players, became declarer at the same contract. He had played nearly every deal for two weeks and showed signs of his fatigue by making the fatal mistake of drawing three rounds of trump after taking the diamond ace at trick one.

He then guessed the spade position correctly, playing the jack after West followed low. But East took the ace and returned a club to his partner's ace, and West's Q-10 of diamonds set the contract one trick.

**Tomorrow:** Self-interrogation.

**JUMBLE**

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**KORCA**  
 K O R C A

**RIYTD**  
 R I Y T D

**BUDEOL**  
 B U D E O L

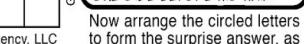
**TYREPT**  
 T Y R E P T



It may be time to shave your head. That would be a great style on you too.

Get the free **JUST JUMBLE** app. Download it at [www.jumble.com](http://www.jumble.com).

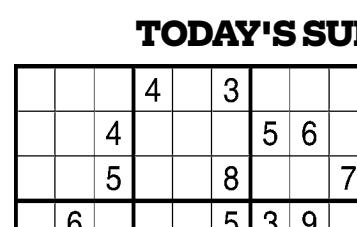
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: 

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's **Jumbles:** POISE HATCH VENDOR SPRAIN

Answer: He purchased the scale model schooner online and would — HAVE IT SHIPPED

**TODAY'S SUDOKU**

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3x3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk).

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**GLUT** I T C H N B A  
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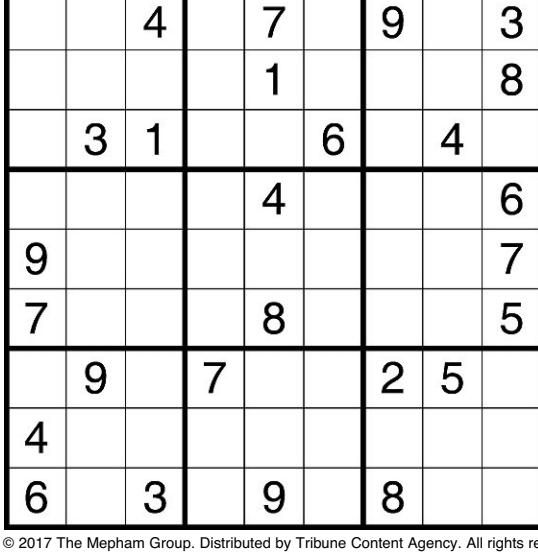
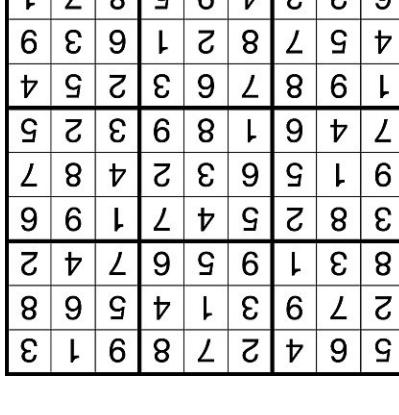
**BOARD** N

## BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at [PlayJumble.com](http://PlayJumble.com)

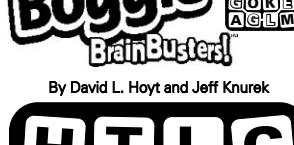
Scan QR code to play online.

## SUDOKU

Level: **1 2 3 4**Complete the grid so each row, column and 3x3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk).

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## BOGGLE



By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare who finds the most words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE YOUR BOGGLE® RATING

3 letters = 1 point 151+ = Champ

4 letters = 2 points 101-150 = Expert

5 letters = 3 points 61-100 = Pro

6 letters = 4 points 31-60 = Gamer

7 letters = 5 points 21-30 = Rookie

8 letters = 10 points 11-20 = Amateur

9+ letters = 15 points 0-10 = Try again

151+ = Champ

101-150 = Expert

61-100 = Pro

31-60 = Gamer

21-30 = Rookie

11-20 = Amateur

0-10 = Try again

151+ = Champ

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# Hartford Courant

# SPORTS

COURANT.COM/SPORTS

## ● ● ● ● ● WINTER OLYMPICS AT A GLANCE

A look at top results and news from the Beijing Games.

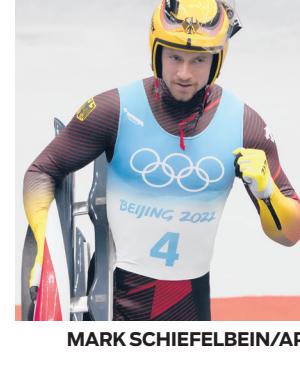
### MEDAL LEADERS (as of 6 p.m. ET Sunday)

Country	G	S	B	Tot
Russian Olympic Committee	1	2	2	5
Norway	2	0	1	3
Austria	0	2	1	3
Italy	0	2	1	3
Sweden	2	0	0	2

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The U.S. women's hockey team routed Switzerland 8-0 in its final tuneup before facing archrival Canada in a preliminary-round finale.
- Eight days shy of his 36th birthday, Germany's Johannes Ludwig, right, became the oldest man to win Olympic gold in the luge.
- Nils van der Poel gave Sweden its first Olympic speedskating medal since 1988, winning gold in the men's 5,000 meters.

**More coverage, Page 7**



MARK SCHIEFELBEIN/AP

### UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Shaky defense disappoints in loss to Villanova

By Shreyas Laddha  
Hartford Courant

Perhaps the most troubling sign coming out of the UConn men's basketball loss to No. 12 Villanova on Saturday night in Philadelphia was the Huskies' usually strong defense struggled.

The Wildcats, missing second-leading scorer Justin Moore (ankle injury), shot lights-out in the second half.

UConn coach Dan Hurley felt the Huskies failed to play up to his standards.

"We just didn't play to our identity from a defensive standpoint," he said. "We were soft on the backboard. We didn't look like the elite defensive team we expect to be."

The Huskies lost 85-74, but at one point they trailed by 23 points before cutting the deficit to 10 with 2:06 left. It was UConn's second straight loss to a Big East opponent after losing to unranked Creighton 59-55 on Tuesday. No. 17 UConn dropped to fourth in the conference behind Providence, Villanova and Marquette. UConn's record against Q1 opponents dropped to 2-5 overall.

UConn finds itself precarious with three games this week, including two games against ranked conference opponents: No. 24 Marquette on Tuesday and No. 21 Xavier on Friday. The Huskies haven't beaten a ranked opponent since Auburn on Nov. 24 and haven't played well on both ends of the court since the 75-56 win against Butler on Dec. 20.

Hurley understands how pivotal the next stretch of games will be.

"This is a valley for us," he said. "We haven't played well. We have to have guys step up. We have to coach better. We have to play better."

Here's a closer look at what the numbers show about the game:

**Villanova's field goal percentage in the second half — 62.5%:** The Wildcats shot for 15-for-24 from the field in the second half. This was the highest field goal percentage

**Turn to Men, Page 4**



### OLYMPICS WOMEN'S HOCKEY

## Knight scores twice in 8-0 rout of Switzerland by US

Associated Press

BEIJING — Having avoided questions about their heated cross-border rivalry all week because the focus has been on the next opponent, United States women's hockey coach Joel Johnson and his players could finally address what's been on everyone's minds since the Beijing Winter Games opened.

Bring on Canada. The defending Olympic cham-

pions worked out their remaining kinks with a dominating 8-0 win over Switzerland on Sunday to prepare for their Group A finale against Canada on Tuesday.

"I think both teams think there's no doubt that we can win, and both teams respect their opponent, but they have all the confidence in the world," Johnson said. "I know that's how we're approaching it. I know that's how Canada is approaching it. And that's why it's going to be fun to watch."

Choate Rosemary Hall graduate Hilary Knight scored two first-period goals, Alex Cavallini stopped 12 shots, and the Americans (3-0) produced their most complete performance so far.

Kelly Pannek and Jesse Compher also scored twice on a night 13 of 19 U.S. skaters earned at least a point.

"I was really happy with how we played. Just felt like we finally

**Turn to Olympics, Page 7**

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL NO.10 UCONN 75, NO. 7 TENNESSEE 56



UConn's Azzi Fudd shoots a jumper over Tennessee defenders in the first half at the XL Center on Sunday. Fudd scored 25 points in the victory. CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

## Fudd scores 25 for Huskies in statement win of season

By Alexa Philippou  
Hartford Courant

It was no secret that UConn was seeking a quality win entering Sunday's matchup against No. 7 Tennessee. With reigning national player of the year Paige Bueckers sidelined since early December, the No. 10 Huskies had struggled in nonconference play this season, losing to Georgia Tech, Louisville and Oregon, and faced the prospect of being shipped out to Spokane, Wash., in the NCAA Tournament. With Tennessee their sole non-league game remaining,

it was their last shot of picking up a résumé-boosting win before March.

UConn had to do it without star freshman Caroline Ducharme, who was unavailable with a head injury, but the Huskies brushed off another bout of adversity and instead came through with the statement win, against their formal rival no less, that they so desperately wanted.

Behind freshman Azzi Fudd's 25-point outing featuring 7-for-9 shooting from 3, and a strong team effort overall, UConn demolished the Lady Vols, 75-56. UConn

improved to 16-9 all time against Tennessee and has swept the series since it was revived in 2020.

For a team that's dealt with so many hiccups this season — six of its nine regular rotation players have missed time due to injury or illness — Sunday's performance against a top 10 team was as confidence-instilling as there's been this season.

"There was a time I think when it was, 'Are we going to ever see the other side of this?' Auriemma said. "But with each person that came back, the feeling just got better and better. It's a shame we did it

without Caroline, so if we can get accomplished what we got accomplished today, knowing that Caroline and Paige weren't there to play, I think that's a lot of confidence going forward."

Fudd, who only 11 days prior returned from a foot injury that'd sidelined her for 11 games, shined on the brightest of stages she's encountered to date. After Auriemma had hounded her for being too passive with the ball in recent games, Fudd showed that wouldn't be an issue Sunday,

**Turn to Women, Page 4**

## Safety Tip of the Day

If you own a new car - remember to keep crash avoidance sensors clear of snow, ice, and road grime. They won't work if you don't.



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**SPORTS****UP NEXT**

**UConn MBB:** Marquette (XL), Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.; at Xavier, Friday, 7 p.m.; at St. John's, Sunday, noon

**UConn WBB:** Villanova (XL), Wednesday, 7 p.m.; DePaul (Gampel), Friday, 7 p.m.; at Marquette, Sunday, 2:30 p.m.

**Celtics:** at Nets, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.; Nuggets, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Hawks, Sunday, 2 p.m.

**Knicks:** at Jazz, Monday, 9 p.m.; at Nuggets, Tuesday, 9 p.m.; at Warriors, Thursday, 10 p.m.

**Nets:** Celtics, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.; at Wizards, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; at Heat, Saturday, 8 p.m.

**UConn hockey:** at Merrimack, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; at Boston Coll., Friday, 7 p.m.; UMass, Feb. 18, 7 p.m.

**Bruins:** Penguins, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; Hurricanes, Thursday, 7 p.m.; at Senators, Saturday, 12:30 p.m.

**Rangers:** Bruins, Feb. 15, 7 p.m.; Red Wings, Feb. 17, 7 p.m.; at Senators, Feb. 20, 5 p.m.

**Wolf Pack:** Springfield, Friday, 7 p.m.; Rochester, Saturday, 7 p.m.; Providence, Feb. 19, 7 p.m.

**TV/RADIO****BASKETBALL**

**5 p.m.:** UNC-Wilmington at Hofstra. (Live) CBSSN

**6 p.m.:** Women's College Georgia Tech at NC State. (Live) ESPN2

**7 p.m.:** Pittsburgh at Virginia Tech. (Live) ACC

**7 p.m.:** Women's College LSU at Ole Miss. (Live) SEC

**7 p.m.:** Lafayette at Navy. (Live) CBSSN

**7 p.m.:** Virginia at Duke. (Live) ESPN

**7 p.m.:** Furman at East Tennessee State. (Live) ESPNU

**9 p.m.:** Knicks at Jazz. (Live) MSG

**9 p.m.:** Kansas at Texas. (Live) ESPN

**9 p.m.:** Alabama A&M at Grambling State. (Live) ESPNU

**9 p.m.:** Arizona at Arizona State. (Live) FS1

**HOCKEY**

**5 p.m.:** Beanpot Tournament Boston University vs Harvard. (Live) NHL

**8 p.m.:** Beanpot Tournament — Boston College vs Northeastern. (Live) NHL

**OLYMPICS**

**6:30 a.m.:** Short Track. (Live) USA

**8 a.m.:** Luge. (Same-day Tape) USA

**8:30 a.m.:** Luge. (Live) USA

**9:40 a.m.:** Biathlon. (Same-day Tape) USA

**11 a.m.:** Ski Jumping. (Same-day Tape) USA

**12:30 p.m.:** Mixed Doubles Curling, First Semifinal. (Same-day Tape) USA

**2 p.m.:** Biathlon, Ski Jumping. (Same-day Tape) NBC

**2:30 p.m.:** Luge. (Same-day Tape) USA

**5 p.m.:** Mixed Doubles Curling, First Semifinal. (Same-day Tape) CNBC

**5 p.m.:** Hockey Game of the Day. (Same-day Tape) USA

**8 p.m.:** Short Track, Speed Skating, Freestyle Skiing, Alpine Skiing, Figure Skating. (Live) NBC

**8 p.m.:** Mixed Doubles Curling, Second Semifinal. (Same-day Tape) CNBC

**8:15 p.m.:** Figure Skating. (Live) USA

**11:10 p.m.:** Women's Hockey U.S. vs Canada. (Live) USA

**1:05 a.m.:** Luge, Short Track. (Same-day Tape) NBC

**1:30 a.m.:** Snowboarding. (Live) USA

**3 a.m.:** Cross-Country Skiing. (Live) USA

**4:35 a.m.:** Biathlon. (Live) USA

**5:30 a.m.:** Cross-Country Skiing. (Live) USA

**KNICKS**

# Barrett lobbying to guard LeBron turned into educational evening

**By Stefan Bondy**  
New York Daily News

LOS ANGELES — RJ Barrett was taken to school by LeBron James, but the youngster asked for the assignment.

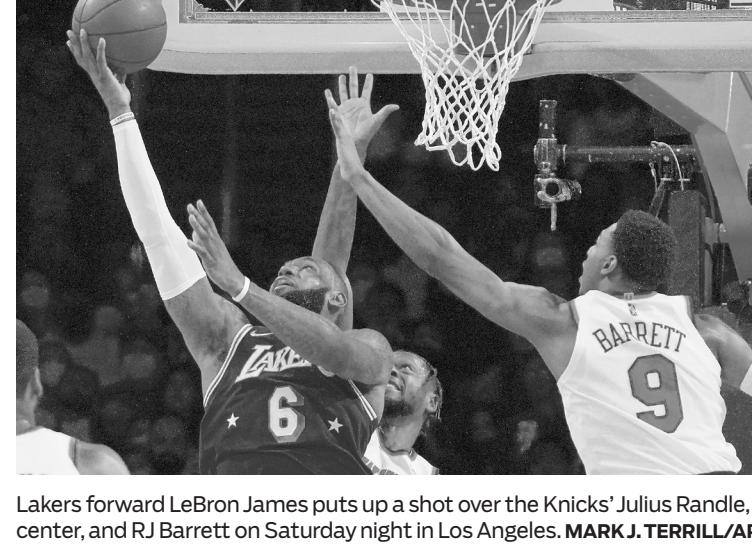
In another sign of Barrett's confidence and growth in Year 3, the 21-year-old said he sought out the assistant coach in charge of scouting James ahead of their matchup Saturday night in L.A.

Why?  
"So I could tell him I wanted to guard LeBron," Barrett said.

It turned into quite a battle in L.A. Not only was Barrett matched up against an all-time great on defense, the Knicks forward played 50 minutes, posted a career-high 36 points and knocked down the tying 3-pointer to reach overtime.

James ultimately won the evening with a Lakers 122-115 overtime victory, validating his 29 points with a triple-double in his first game back from a knee injury. But James also acknowledged Barrett's exquisite offensive evening, saying "he just hit key shot after key shot."

James, as it turned out, has a bit of history with Barrett. During a visit to Toronto in a recent offsea-



Lakers forward LeBron James puts up a shot over the Knicks' Julius Randle, center, and RJ Barrett on Saturday night in Los Angeles. MARK J. TERRILL/AP

son, James said he received a message through his agent, Rich Paul, about a Canadian high schooler "that was possibly next," by which he meant perhaps destined for NBA greatness.

Barrett asked to join James' workout in Toronto that summer, and the three-time MVP obliged.

"I was like, 'Absolutely,'" James said. "So, I've been knowing him quite a while. I followed him

in New York — it's a different light and a different heat when you play for the Knicks, and I think he's handled it extremely well."

Indeed, Barrett sputtered as a rookie but has ascended gradually the last two seasons, currently enjoying his greatest stretch starting on New Year's Eve. His scoring average is up to 17.5 points, as Barrett slowly transitions to the No. 1 option during Julius Randle's struggles.

Saturday night was the latest example. Last season in L.A., Barrett attempted a potential game-winning 3-pointer in overtime that didn't even hit the rim. This time, he got a cleaner look in transition and buried the tying trey with 8 seconds left in regulation.

"I just remember last year being here and having a chance and I shot the ball nowhere near the basket," Barrett said. "To make that shot this year I was happy with that."

Coach Tom Thibodeau was impressed with Barrett's performance but cautioned against complacency.

"In general, the way he's played, really the last five, six weeks, he's really playing well," the coach said. "There's still a lot of room for growth for him."

**NUGGETS 124, NETS 104**

# Jokic triple-double hands Nets 8th loss in a row

**By Michael Kelly**  
Associated Press

DENVER — Nikola Jokic had 27 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists as the Denver Nuggets beat Brooklyn 124-104 on Sunday to extend the Nets' losing streak to eight games.

Jokic has an NBA-best 14 triple-doubles this season. He scored 23 points in the second and third quarters when Denver went from trailing by seven to leading by 21.

The Nuggets held Brooklyn to 29 points in the second half to end a three-game skid.

"We rebounded better in the second half. We made them take tough shots. The defense was much, much better," Jokic said.

Will Barton had 21 points and Aaron Gordon had 17 points and nine rebounds for Denver in his return from a two-game absence.

Nets guard James Harden missed his second straight game with left hamstring tightness. Brooklyn coach Steve Nash said the team is being cautious with the former MVP.

Nash was asked before the game if it's accurate the team won't trade Harden before Thursday's deadline and gave a definitive answer.

"Yes, that's correct," he said.

Kyrie Irving finished with 27 points and 11 assists and Cam Thomas scored 20 for Brooklyn. The losing streak is the longest since the Nets lost seven in a row from Dec. 26, 2019, to Jan. 7, 2020. They finished 0-5 on the trip.

"The common thread is not having everyone and us finding ways to get better," Patty Mills said.

"It has been tough, but no excuses. We've got to hang our hat on our ability to rely on each other."



Nuggets center Nikola Jokic works against Nets forward Blake Griffin on Sunday in Denver. DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Brooklyn continues to play without Kevin Durant, LaMarcus Aldridge and Nic Claxton due to injuries, and Joe Harris has not played since Nov. 14 because of an ankle injury.

The mounting injuries have contributed to the Nets falling into the first play-in position in the Eastern Conference.

"We're not going to panic. There's still plenty of games after the all-star break when Kevin gets

back," Nash said. "Hopefully, have Kevin and James. You're talking about five guys. That's your starting lineup, potentially."

Denver led 76-75 at halftime and outscored the Nets 31-16 in the third quarter to take a 107-91 lead. Jokic came out late in the third, sitting on nine assists, and looked like he would finish an assist shy of another triple-double until Brooklyn cut the deficit to 109-99.

Jokic checked back in and fed

Barton for a layup for his 10th assist.

The Nuggets stayed a game ahead of Minnesota to remain in the sixth position in the Western Conference with 10 days left before the All-Star break.

"This is a challenging time for every team, every coach, and every player," Denver coach Michael Malone said. "We have five games until the all-star break. We're tired of each other. I see this team more than I see my wife and kids."

**CELTICS 116, MAGIC 83**

# Brown, stellar defense lead Celtics over Magic

**By John Denton**  
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Jaylen Brown scored 26 points and the Boston Celtics played solid defense in a 116-83 victory over the Orlando Magic on Sunday night for their season-best fifth straight win.

Boston limited Orlando to 35.8% shooting from the field and 5 of 25 from 3-point range. It was similar to their matchup in November when the Celtics beat the Magic by holding them to 79 points and 32.1% shooting — both season lows.

Dennis Schröder scored 23 points and hit four 3-pointers off Boston's bench, while Al Horford added 13 points and 11 rebounds for his 10th double-double.

Jayson Tatum had 15 points, nine rebounds and seven assists, but he shot just 6 of 18. Brown, who scored a career-best 50 points in victory over Orlando last month, made 10 of 22 shots.

Rookie Jalen Suggs had 17 points, six rebounds and five assists for Orlando, which dropped to an NBA-worst 0-21 when it fails to score 100 points.

Boston never trailed Sunday

and beat the Magic for a third time this season. The Celtics swept the season series for a third straight year to push its winning streak to nine over Orlando.

Wendall Carter Jr. scored 14 points for Orlando, which was playing less than 24 hours after getting routed 135-115 at home by Memphis. The Magic have followed up their only two-game home winning streak of the season with two straight losses.

Boston pushed its 10-point halftime lead to as much as 19 in the third quarter by smothering Orlando defensively. The Magic missed 18 of their 20 3-point attempts in the game's first three quarters against the Celtics' active defense.

Boston mostly struggled offensively in the early going, but it locked down the Magic on the other end and led 49-39 at the half. Orlando managed just 15 first-quarter points and shot a dismal 31.7% from the floor in the opening half.

Celtics guard Marcus Smart came into Sunday third in the NBA in steals at 1.87 a game, but his effectiveness as a defender extends

beyond that area. He's also had 140 pass deflections — 64 more than his next closest teammate. He also leads the team in charges taken with seven.

Boston missed its first six 3-point shots and 14 of the first 15 tries from beyond the arc.

Tatum was held scoreless in the first quarter, and his first points didn't come until the game was 15

minutes old.

Magic center Mo Bamba played despite spraining his right ankle again in Saturday's home loss to Memphis. The injury has bothered Bamba for the past three weeks.

Orlando rookie Franz Wagner is one of just 10 players in the NBA to appear in all of his team's games this season. Also, he is the only rookie to not miss a game.

Celtics guard Jaylen Brown dunks over Magic center Mo Bamba in the second half of Sunday's victory in Orlando, Fla. JOHN RAOUX/AP

Celtics guard Jaylen Brown dunks over Magic center Mo Bamba in the second half of Sunday's victory in Orlando, Fla. JOHN RAOUX/AP

Celtics guard Jaylen Brown dunks over Magic center Mo Bamba in the second half of Sunday's victory in Orlando, Fla. JOHN RAOUX/AP

Celtics guard Jaylen Brown dunks over Magic center Mo Bamba in the second half of Sunday's victory in Orlando, Fla. JOHN RAOUX/AP

Celtics guard Jaylen Brown dunks over Magic center Mo Bamba in the second half of Sunday's victory in Orlando, Fla. JOHN RAOUX/AP

## SCOREBOARD

### NHL

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Florida	47	32	10	5	69	194	139
Tampa Bay	46	30	10	6	66	157	130
Toronto	42	29	10	3	61	153	112
Boston	43	26	13	3	55	131	120
Detroit	47	20	21	6	45	130	162
Buffalo	45	14	24	7	35	117	157
Ottawa	40	14	22	4	32	110	136
Montreal	44	8	29	7	23	99	172
<b>METRO.</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>OT</b>	<b>PTS</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>GA</b>
Carolina	42	31	9	2	64	147	98
NY. Rangers	47	30	13	4	64	145	122
Pittsburgh	47	27	11	8	62	154	124
Washington	47	25	13	9	59	152	130
Columbus	43	20	22	1	41	136	159
NY. Islanders	39	16	17	6	38	93	105
Philadelphia	45	15	22	8	38	113	152
New Jersey	45	15	25	5	35	126	163

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Colorado	44	32	8	4	68	183	129
Nashville	46	28	14	4	60	144	125
Minnesota	41	28	10	3	59	151	120
St. Louis	44	26	13	5	57	153	121
Dallas	43	23	18	2	48	129	131
Winnipeg	42	18	17	7	43	120	128
Chicago	46	16	23	7	39	112	156
Arizona	45	11	30	4	26	99	169
<b>PACIFIC</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>OT</b>	<b>PTS</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>GA</b>
Vegas	46	27	16	3	57	158	137
Los Angeles	47	24	16	7	55	136	130
Anaheim	48	23	16	9	55	141	137
Calgary	42	23	13	6	52	136	104
Edmonton	42	23	16	3	49	142	138
San Jose	46	22	20	4	48	126	142
Vancouver	46	20	20	6	46	115	126
Seattle	46	15	27	4	34	121	159

#### SATURDAY'S ALL-STAR GAME

T-Mobile ARENA, LAS VEGAS  
Metropolitan 6, Pacific 4  
Central 8, Atlantic 5  
Metropolitan 5, Central 3  
**MVP:** Claude Giroux, Philadelphia

**MONDAY'S GAMES**  
Carolina at Ottawa, 7 p.m.  
New Jersey at Ottawa, 7 p.m.

**TUESDAY'S GAMES**  
Carolina at Ottawa, 7 p.m.  
Columbus at Washington, 7 p.m.  
New Jersey at Montreal, 7 p.m.  
Pittsburgh at Boston, 7 p.m.  
Minnesota at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.  
Vegas at Edmonton, 9 p.m.  
Arizona at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY'S GAMES**  
Detroit at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.  
Chicago at Edmonton, 8 p.m.  
Nashville at Dallas, 8 p.m.  
Vegas at Calgary, 9:30 p.m.  
Arizona at Seattle, 10 p.m.  
N.Y. Islanders at Vancouver, 10:30 p.m.

### SEASON LEADERS

#### SHOTS

	S	TM	G	A
Alex Ovechkin	213	WSH	29	29
Kyle Connor	190	WPG	25	20
David Pastrnak	188	BOS	22	21
Auston Matthews	173	TOR	29	22
Tim Meier	168	SJS	21	26
Patrice Bergeron	158	BOS	12	22
Roman Josi	157	NSH	13	31
Patrick Kane	157	CHI	11	31
Connor McDavid	157	EDM	23	37
Viktor Arvidsson	149	LAK	13	16
Leon Draisaitl	149	EDM	32	31
Johnny Gaudreau	149	CYV	18	36
Chris Kreider	147	NYR	33	14
Jake Guentzel	146	PIT	23	23
Cam Atkinson	145	PHI	17	19
Kirill Kaprizov	143	MIN	19	34
Mikko Rantanen	143	COL	24	30
Evan Rodrigues	143	PIT	15	17

#### SHOTS FACED

	SA	TM	SV
Juuse Saros	1210	NSH	1122
Connor Hellebuyck	1117	WPG	1017
John Gibson	1069	ANA	986
Tristan Jarry	1058	PIT	977
Thatcher Demko	1057	VAN	969
Andrei Vasilevskiy	1037	TBL	956
Alex Nedeljkovic	1035	DET	943
Marc-Andre Fleury	1009	CHI	916
through break			

### AUTO RACING

#### NASCAR CUP CUP BUSCH LIGHT CLASH AT THE COLISEUM

At Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles, Lap 0.25 miles

#### FP SP DRIVER

#### MAKE

#### LAP

1	4	Joey Logano	Ford	150
2	1	Kyle Busch	Toyota	150
3	10	Austin Dillon	Chevrolet	150
4	16	Erik Jones	Chevrolet	150
5	8	Kyle Larson	Chevrolet	150
6	7	William Byron	Chevrolet	150
7	14	Cole Custer	Ford	150
8	11	Christopher Bell	Toyota	150
9	21	AJ Allmendinger	Chevrolet	150
10	19	Kevin Harvick	Ford	150
11	15	Chase Elliott	Chevrolet	150
12	22	Harrison Burton	Ford	150
13	9	Ricky Stenhouse Jr	Chevrolet	150
14	5	Daniel Suarez	Chevrolet	150
15	23	Martin Truex Jr	Toyota	150
16	12	Michael McDowell	Ford	150
17	13	Ryan Blaney	Ford	147
18	20	Bubba Wallace	Toyota	146
19	3	Justin Haley	Chevrolet	116-a
20	18	Ryan Preece	Ford	75-a
21	2	Tyler Reddick	Chevrolet	53-a
22	6	Chase Briscoe	Ford	53-a
23	17	Denny Hamlin	Toyota	52-a
a-accident; race Statistics were not immediately available.				

NASCAR Driver Rating Formula

A maximum of 150points can be attained in a race.

The formula combines the following categories: Wins, Finishes, Top-15 Finishes, Average Running Position

While on Lead Lap, Average Speed

Under Green, Fastest Lap, Led Most Laps, Lead-Lap Finish.

#### ODDS

#### COLLEGE BASKETBALL

#### MONDAY

#### FAVORITE LINE UNDERDOG

#### LINE O/U

#### UNDERDOG

#### TEAM

#### LINE

#### UNDERDOG

#### LINE

#### UNDERDOG

#### TEAM

#### LINE

**MEN'S BASKETBALL**  
Tuesday: vs. Marquette at XL Center, 6:30 p.m., FS1

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**  
Wednesday: vs. Villanova at XL Center, 7 p.m., SNY

**UCONN**  
COURANT.COM/SPORTS

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**BIG EAST MEN'S BASKETBALL**

# Bynum leads Friars as Georgetown drops record 11th straight

By Patrick Stevens  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Jared Bynum scored a career-high 32 points as No. 15 Providence won its seventh in a row, beating Georgetown 71-52 Sunday and sending the Hoyas to their school-record 11th straight loss.

The Friars (20-2, 10-1 Big East) completed a season sweep of the sputtering Hoyas and have won 12 of 15 against their longtime conference rival since 2015.

Bynum had only five points at halftime, but personally outscored Georgetown 27-22 in the second half.

"Jared put on a cape, and it was as good of a performance as I've seen since I've been the head coach here," Providence's Ed Cooley said.

Aminu Mohammed had 18 points for the Hoyas (6-15, 0-10). Georgetown is nine games under .500 for the first time since going 3-23 in 1971-72, the season before Hall of Fame coach John Thompson began his Hoyas career.

Georgetown's previous record losing streak was 10, set over the final nine games of the 2003-04 season and the 2004-05 season opener.

"We're only going to win when everybody in that room decides that

whatever we're doing right now is not working," Georgetown coach Patrick Ewing said. "They have to decide if they're going to listen to what we want them to do and get it done."

It seemed the Hoyas might end their slide against an unlikely opponent when they held a lead early in the second half. But Georgetown's sloppiness and Bynum's slick shooting ended any chance of that.

Providence already led by five when Bynum made a pair of free throws. It proved to be the start of a 13-0 personal run for Bynum, who hit three consecutive 3s to make it 59-41, then added another 3 after a basket by Mohammed to become responsible for 16 consecutive points by the Friars.

Bynum's previous career high was 23 against Temple in 2018 when he played for St. Joseph's. A native of nearby Largo, Maryland, who played high school ball at Georgetown Prep, Bynum shot 11 of 15 from the field and 7 of 8 from 3-point range.

"It felt like an ocean," Bynum said of the basket. "It felt like everything I was putting up was going down. That was pretty fun to see those shots fall. And being back at home with a lot of family and friends here, being able to play in front of them, I was really excited."



Providence guard Jared Bynum puts up a shot over Georgetown's Donald Carey in the first half Sunday in Washington. NICK WASS/AP

**Men**  
from Page 1

any team has had against UConn this season in any half.

Before the game, Villanova coach Jay Wright talked about how he wanted to be aggressive against the press, and it showed during the game. Villanova guards picked apart the press with precision as UConn defenders were slow to rotate to the ball. Perhaps the most impressive part was the play of Villanova's Eric Dixon. He had a career-high 24 points, and he did it using brute strength and post moves that UConn defenders seemed to have no answer for.

UConn forward Samson Johnson got some playing time in the game, and Dixon quickly took advantage of the matchup in the paint. The freshman couldn't stop Dixon from scoring, something even forward Adama Sanogo struggled with. This was an important lesson for Johnson on the transition between high school and college basketball.

"It was a little unsettling to run him Samson (Johnson) at center out there, but I think this game was good for him," Hurley said.

**Zero points in the first half**

**for Sanogo:** Sanogo was very quiet on offense in the first half with just one shot attempt. Villanova did a great job of playing physical defense while constantly keeping him moving, so entry passes to the post were

difficult.

"In the first half, we were trying to throw soft bounce passes and weak lob-type of passes to him," Hurley said.

The Huskies struggled on offense, shooting just 8-for-24 (33.3%) from the field, and a huge part of that was they were unable to get easy inside looks to get Sanogo going. Sanogo hasn't shot better than 25% from the field in the first half of the last three games, and the Huskies' offense has reflected that.

**Jordan Hawkins shoots**

**3-for-4 from 3:** Freshman

Jordan Hawkins has had an inconsistent season filled with mistakes mixed in with flashes of greatness. Hawkins came in when UConn was down big and helped cut Villanova's lead down to 10 points. He has struggled with his shooting this season, so seeing a couple go in will do wonders for his confidence. UConn desperately needs 3-point shooting and, if Hawkins can gain a little consistency, it will help alleviate the shooting concerns. It's an important experience for him to play against a ranked conference opponent on the road. This could pay dividends later in the season.

"It was good to see Jordan get in there when things weren't going well on the road to have the stomach to look like one of our better players," said Hurley.

"That's encouraging moving forward."

"It was good to see Jordan get in there when things weren't going well on the road to have the stomach to look like one of our better players," said Hurley. "That's encouraging moving forward."

**UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**



UConn's Caroline Ducharme, left, helps feed balls to teammates during warmups before the game against longtime rival Tennessee at the XL Center on Sunday. Ducharme didn't play because of a head injury. CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

# Head injury keeps Ducharme on bench for Tennessee game

By Alexa Philippou  
Hartford Courant

The bad luck for UConn women's basketball won't let up.

The No. 10 Huskies were without star freshman guard Caroline Ducharme due to a head injury for their 75-56 win over No. 7 Tennessee on Sunday afternoon. Ducharme is the sixth of UConn's nine regular rotation players to miss this season.

UConn coach Geno Auriemma told reporters postgame that Ducharme has been through testing and doesn't have a concussion, but she wasn't feeling well heading

into the game.

"The last two games that we played, she took a couple of pretty solid hits [to the head] and she just wasn't feeling really good yesterday and this morning when she woke up," Auriemma said Sunday. "Precautionary, best to keep her out."

Auriemma didn't seem concerned that it would be a long-term issue.

"She knew she wasn't ready, so a couple days off will do her great."

Azzi Fudd earned the start in place of Ducharme, the first of her career, and went off for 25 points. It was UConn's seventh unique start

ing lineup in 19 games.

Ducharme was on the bench for the game. She had practiced with the team Saturday and spoke with media ahead of the top-10 matchup.

"She was pissed, man. She wanted to play so bad," Auriemma said of Ducharme.

Ducharme has been a pleasant surprise for the Huskies this season, averaging 12.6 points on 45.6% shooting and 30.1% from 3.

Her scoring has been even better since Paige Bueckers went down (16.3 points per game).

Alexa Philippou can be reached at [aphilippou@courant.com](mailto:aphilippou@courant.com).

## Women

from Page 1

hitting a 3 on UConn's first possession of the game.

The freshman scored 16 of her career-high 25 points in the second half, where she didn't miss a shot (6 for 6 from the field, 4 for 4 on 3s).

"The game plan was not to leave Azzi Fudd open," Tennessee coach Kellie Harper said. "That was not the game plan."

Fudd also finished with four rebounds, four assists, a block, a steal and zero turnovers.

"If you had watched the game, you would've thought she was an upperclassman playing out there, that she was a senior," Auriemma said. "Eight games into her freshman career, that was pretty good, huh? If that's the worst she ever looks, she's going to be pretty good."

Fudd didn't do it alone. Sophomore Aaliyah Edwards added 14 points, a season high, and her seven rebounds led the team. Her energy and toughness allowed her to impact the game in ways she hadn't always managed to do earlier this season. Redshirt senior Evina Westbrook, who transferred to Storrs from Tennessee in 2019, made her presence felt with another 14 points off the bench, including timely baskets at the end of the first half and a physicality that was to Auriemma's liking.

Sophomore Nika Mühl (who had five assists) and senior Christyn Williams made huge plays in the third that turned a seven-point UConn advantage into a 21-point edge.

UConn held Tennessee to 29% shooting while hitting a season-high 46% (12 for 26) from the arc. The Huskies were even on the boards with the Lady Vols and held them to just 12 second-chance points, which is arguably a win considering how much offense Tennessee derives from its rebounding.

Fudd (3 for 10) and the rest of the team didn't shoot great in the first half (35.3%), but the Huskies' fierce defense and rebounding edge allowed them to build a decent lead regardless.

Tennessee went 7 for 27 from the field in the first half, with 10 points coming from the free-throw line. Westbrook provided a spark with 11 first-half points, including the final six of the half for UConn.

The Huskies led 32-25 at the break even as Williams went scoreless (0 for 7) in the first 20.

UConn stormed out of the gates after the break with a game-deciding run that included 14 unanswered points, six from Williams to finally get on the board and eight from Mühl. Mühl hit her second 3 of the quarter before converting on a steal-and-score the next play, pushing UConn's lead to 21.

Tennessee didn't score its first points of the second half until the 6:02 mark, but then the onslaught on both ends continued, as Westbrook's free throw put UConn up by 26 with 3:36 left in the third.

The Huskies looked a bit more undisciplined in the final 13 minutes of the game, allowing Tennessee to cut the deficit to 13 midway through the fourth. But Fudd hit three 3s in just over two minutes to ice the game.

"If you have a breakdown defensively, she's going to knock it down," Harper said. "You can't have mental lapses against a player like Fudd. They do a great job within their offense of finding her. They're such great passers, so if you do have a breakdown, they capitalize on it."

Tennessee's Jordan Horston led all scorers with 26. The Lady Vols have now lost three of their last four games.

Auriemma, ever the perfectionist, still found plenty of weak spots in his team's performance. UConn faltered on defense and the boards toward the game's end, and he thought Williams, Olivia Nelson-Ododa and Dorka Juhász didn't

play their best.

"We didn't exactly play our A-plus game, either," Auriemma said. "So I think there's a lot of growth for their team and our team probably."

That there is, but Sunday's game could serve as a great jumping off point to fine-tune their play the rest of the season, especially once the Huskies get back all their pieces.

"To win the way we did with not all the pieces functioning like you'd like, we could be good in March," Auriemma said.

His freshman phenom concurred.

"It's going to be really scary, and definitely scary for our opponents," Fudd said. "We're going to be a nasty team with everyone healthy."

Alexa Philippou can be reached at [aphilippou@courant.com](mailto:aphilippou@courant.com).

**UCONN 75, TENNESSEE 56**

**Tennessee** M FG FT RB A PF PT

Horston 34 8-19 10-11 8 3 4 26

Key 28 2-3 4-4 3 0 0 8

Dye 14 0-5 1-2 1 0 0 1

Walker 30 0-7 0-0 5 1 2 0

Darby 20 0-4 0-0 3 0 1 0

Burrell 23 3-10 4-4 2 0 2 11

Puckett 26 2-7 0-0 4 0 3 6

Striplin 1 2-2 0-0 1 0 0 4

Miles 16 0-1 0-0 1 2 2 0

Saunders 5 0-0 0-0 0 0 1 0

Wynn 2 0-1 0-0 0 1 0 0

Rennie 1 0-0 0-0 1 0 0 0

TOTALS — 17-59 19-21 38 7 19 56

Three-point goals: 3-15, 20.0% Puckett 2-4, Burrell 1-3, Horston 0-1, Walker 0-3, Darby 0-4). FG pct.: 28.8. FT pct.: 90.5. Team rebounds: 9. Turnovers: 15 (Horston 7, Walker 2, Burrell 2, Miles 2, Darby, Puckett). Blocks: 1 (Key). Steals: 5 (Walker 2, Horston, Puckett, Miles).

**UConn** M FG FT RB A PF PT

Fudd 39 9-16 0-1 4 4 2 25

Edwards 37 5-6 3-4 7 2 3 14

Muhl 30 3-4 0-0 2 5 4 8

Williams 29 2-11 1-2 3 2 4 6

Nelson-Ododa 27 2-4 2-4 3 1 3 6

Westbrook 24 4-11 5-6 4 3 2 14

Juhász 13 1-5 0-0 4 1 3 2

Gabriel 1 0-1 0-0 0 0 1 0

TOTALS — 26-58 11-17 38 18 22 75

Three-point goals: 12-26, 46.2% (Fudd 7-9, Mühl 2-2, Edwards 1-1, Westbrook 1-5, Williams 1-7, Juhász 0-2). FG pct.: 44.8. FT pct.: 64.7. Team rebounds: 11. Turnovers: 14 (Nelson-Ododa 4, Edwards 3, Williams 3, Westbrook 2, Mühl, Gabriel). Blocks: 7 (Nelson-Ododa 3, Edwards 2, Fudd, Mühl). Steals: 5 (Fudd, Edwards, Mühl, Nelson-Ododa, Westbrook).

Tennessee 10 15 11 20 — 56

UConn 15 17 23 20 — 75

Officials: Smith, Lukanich, Vasiliy. Att.: 13,179 at XL Center, Hartford.

## Did you know?

## SPORTS

## NHL

## Grading the Bruins at NHL All-Star break

By Steve Conroy

Boston Herald

After the Bruins' uneven first half of the season that ended with a promising January, we are left with the same question we had when the season started: Is this team good enough?

It's pretty clear the Bruins are good enough to make the playoffs, but can they actually compete for a Stanley Cup? There needs to be more positive data — and most likely a home run at the trade deadline by GM Don Sweeney — to be able to comfortably say they indeed can hang in a seven-game series against the likes of the Panthers, Lightning, Hurricanes or even the Rangers.

But as the B's recharge during this All-Star break, we take stock of what they have been so far with these mid-term grades (minimum 20 games for skaters). Keep in mind that expectations and job descriptions matter.

## Forwards

**Brad Marchand:** A+. He has slowed a bit in the last couple of weeks because of an apparent shoulder injury, but he has been the B's best, most reliable player.

**David Pastrnak:** A-. If there is an MVP since the New Year turnaround, it is Pastrnak.

**Patrice Bergeron:** B+. Four of his 12 goals came in one game, and he has one goal in his last 15 games. But as we've all seen for half of the captain's natural life, the sum of Bergeron's game is greater than the parts.

**Charlie Coyle:** B. While the trial of Coyle centering Taylor Hall did not work, the centerman still contributed when that wasn't working.

**Tomas Nosek:** B. He was signed to center the fourth line, chip in on the penalty kill and help his unit take on some top line assignments. He's done his job.

**Curtis Lazar:** B. On a pace for double-digit goal season, Lazar has given the fourth line just the dash of scoring necessary for success.

**Anton Blidh:** B. For a guy who nobody pegged to be on the roster at the start of the season, Blidh has brought tenacious forechecking and a little bit of sandpaper to the fourth line.

**Taylor Hall:** B-. It feels like a switch was flipped when Pastrnak was dropped down to his line. The hope was that, with David Krejci gone, Hall would be able to drive a line on his own. It didn't happen. But at least he's producing now.



Left wing Brad Marchand has had an A-plus first half of a season for the Bruins at the All-Star break. ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

**Erik Haula:** C+. Haula was a healthy scratch early in the season and, until Jan. 1, he was trending toward being a bust of a signing. He deserves credit for turning it around when given the chance to center Pastrnak and Haula.

**Jake DeBrusk:** C+. He started OK, slumped a bit, was scratched and his trade request became public. Sweeney is working to accommo-

date him.

**Craig Smith:** C-. With the way Smith works shift in, shift out, it's a good bet he'll bounce back into the solid "B" category.

**Nick Foligno:** D. Foligno's positive energy should not be dismissed, but 1-6-7 totals just aren't enough. D. Frederic has not been the physical presence it is still believed can be.

## Defense

**Charlie McAvoy:** A. He has become the true No. 1 defenseman that everyone expected him to be.

**Matt Grzelcyk:** A-. Grzelcyk may be challenged in certain defensive situations, but he defends by retrieving the puck and moving it quickly out of the D-zone.

**Brandon Carlo:** B-. Carlo has had his share of rough games, but his reach and skating ability allow him to be effective on most nights.

**Derek Forbort:** B-. Forbort was hired to give McAvoy a more stout partner after Grzelcyk had trouble with bigger forwards in the playoffs, but the experiment has mostly been abandoned.

**Connor Clifton:** B-. Clifton is ever a gamer, but he's had a hard time holding off competition for a job from first Jakub Zboril and later Urho Vaakanainen.

**Mike Reilly:** C+. After a slow start, Reilly found himself as a healthy scratch, not what you want after Reilly was signed to a three-year \$9 million contract.

## Goaltending

**Linus Ullmark:** B+. His record is up to 16-6-1.

**Jeremy Swayman:** B.

## RED SOX

## Righthander Pivetta has been a diamond in the rough for Red Sox

By Jason Mastrodonato

Boston Herald

Let's go ahead and say it: Righthander Nick Pivetta was the pitcher the Red Sox thought Garrett Richards could be.

His average fastball velocity exploded from 93 to 95 mph from 2020 to 2021, a result of what Red Sox coaches said was an intense offseason of strength building, while his curveball spin rate ranked in the 85th percentile among big league pitchers.

Armed with two plus weapons and renewed confidence in an organization that declared him a starting pitcher — the label he craved after getting traded from the Phillies during the 2020 season — Pivetta submitted his finest season as a professional in 2021.

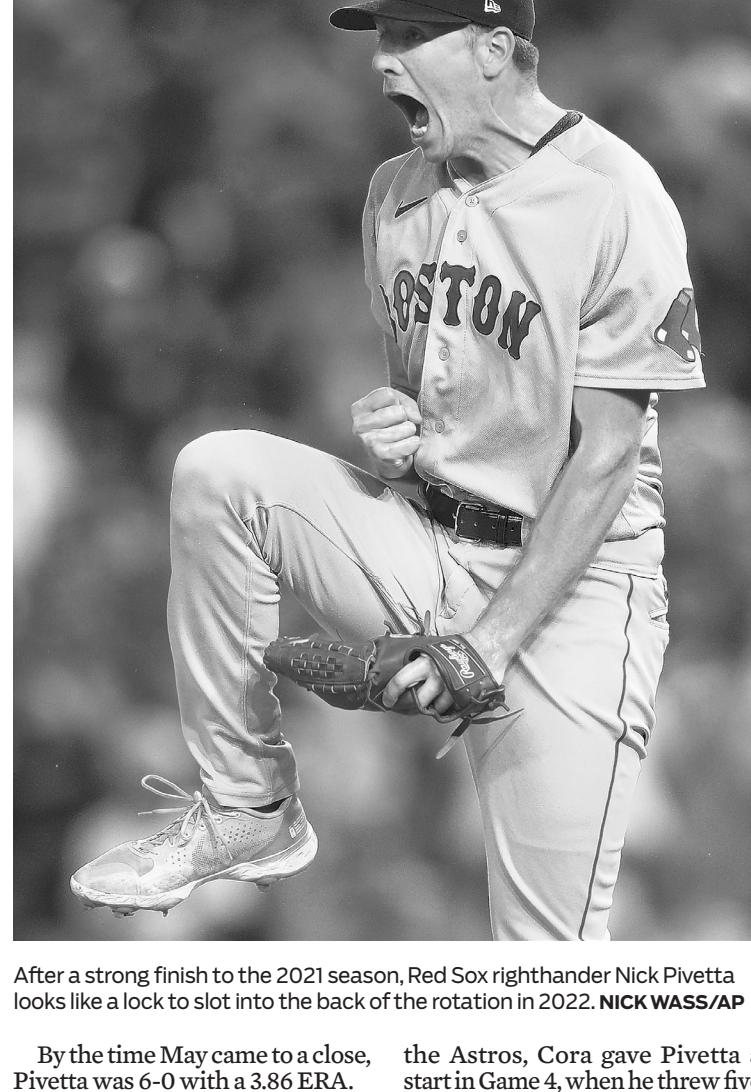
"Any time you get a fresh perspective on how you do things, everything that comes in is really helpful," Pivetta said last spring, his first camp with the Red Sox after spending the first eight years of his career with the Phillies. "You've got to take everything, and you've got to just digest that and apply it to yourself. ... It's nice to be around a new organization. It's like a breath of fresh air."

When manager Alex Cora first met Pivetta, he was startled by how good his fastball was. But Cora noticed something about his personality, too.

"One thing I told him when I got here, 'You don't have to prove people wrong,' which is the most important thing," Cora said early last year. "Yeah you get drafted, developed in an organization and you want to make it with them. You get traded and now, like, I'll show them. He doesn't have to show them or us he's good. We know he's good."

While rookie Tanner Houck was penciled in to start the year in the Red Sox rotation after a dominant audition at the end of the 2020 season, it was Pivetta who shined in spring training and earned an unexpected rotation spot.

Chief baseball officer Chaim Bloom, who the previous summer had acquired Pivetta with prospect Connor Seabold in a one-sided trade for relievers Brandon Workman and Heath Hembree, defended the decision to keep Pivetta over Houck as an attempt to preserve roster depth. Pivetta was out of minor league options, and the Red Sox were eager to give him one more chance.



After a strong finish to the 2021 season, Red Sox righthander Nick Pivetta looks like a lock to slot into the back of the rotation in 2022. NICK WASS/AP

By the time May came to a close, Pivetta was 6-0 with a 3.86 ERA.

"His stuff is a lot better than what I thought," Cora said at the time.

Like most pitchers who relied on high spin rates, Pivetta's stuff tailed off a bit after MLB banned all foreign substances on the pitcher's mound. But after struggling in July and August, he figured something out in September and entered the postseason in a swing role.

In Game 1 of the American League Division Series against the Rays, Pivetta came on after a disappointing start by Eduardo Rodriguez and shined in 4-1/3 innings. On just two days rest, Pivetta was even better in Game 3, firing four scoreless innings while striking out seven and getting the win as the Sox battled back to win it in 13 innings.

And after the Sox advanced to the AL Championship Series vs.

the Astros, Cora gave Pivetta a start in Game 4, when he threw five innings of one-run ball, allowing just two hits.

"Obviously, there's more there, we believe, and he keeps learning and keeps going," Cora said in the playoffs. "His fastball plays. It's a good fastball. It's not only the velocity; it's the carry and where he uses it. And when he's on with it, he's really tough to hit."

Can Pivetta repeat or better his performance in 2022?

He'll turn 29 on Valentine's Day and is coming off his first full season since 2018.

With Chris Sale and Nathan Eovaldi returning to lead the rotation, and Houck, Rich Hill, Michael Wacha and eventually James Paxton adding competition, Pivetta should slide into the back of the rotation with another chance to prove himself, and three more years of team control.

## YANKEES

## Dominguez hype 'off the charts' ahead of Yanks' minor league camp

By Kristie Ackert

New York Daily News

Jasson Dominguez is "turning heads wherever he goes," and this week the Yankees' much-hyped prospect goes to the team's minor league mini camp. Heading into last season, the Dominican Republic native's first in professional baseball, the 18-year-old Dominguez was considered the Bombers' top prospect by Fangraphs and others who rank young players. This year, he comes into the camp ranked behind shortstops Anthony Volpe and Oswald Peraza in the rankings.

But the Bombers are still very high on the player who already has the nickname "The Martian."

"Everywhere he goes, he's turning heads," said Kevin Reese, the Yankees' recently promoted vice president of player development. "His ability to connect with people, his ability to lead at such a young age, the exit velo, the speed. Some of the measurables that we do on our performance science side, it's all off the charts. We just want to get him to play more baseball; I think all of the skill is there, all of the ability is there."

Dominguez and other minor league players who are not on the 40-man roster will get a chance to show off those skills this week as the Yankees work out some of their top prospects. With major league players locked out by the owners, negotiations with the players stalled and spring training likely delayed, the entire organization will get a good look at their future with the minor leaguers in

Tampa, Fla.

Dominguez is considered a big part of that future. The Yankees signed him out of his native Dominican Republic in 2019 for \$5.1 million at the age of 16. Because of the global coronavirus pandemic, the 2020 minor league seasons were canceled and Dominguez's professional baseball debut was postponed to 2021. After years of buildup as he became something of a social media star in baseball circles, Dominguez, who turns 19 on Monday, was not as dominant as those who follow his Instagram workouts expected.

In 56 games between rookie league and low Class-A, Dominguez slugged .252/.353/.379 with a .732 OPS, five home runs and 19 RBIs. He stole nine bases and got caught three times. Dominguez struck out 73 times and drew 27 walks in 241 plate appearances.

"He was good. He has great raw power. He can hit the ball a mile if gets ahold of it," said an American League scout who watched Dominguez last season and before in the Dominican Republic. "He'll get better with the strikeouts, I am sure. He looked stockier than I remembered. He may have to move to a corner (rather than play center field)."

"He's a nice looking young player."

On a conference call with reporters, Reese would not say where they expect Dominguez to start the 2022 season. It's a good bet he'll be back in Tampa for part of the year and then work his way into a promotion to High Class A at Hudson Valley.



Yankees prospect Jasson Dominguez of the American League Futures Team bats in the Futures Game at Coors Field in Denver on July 11.

DUSTIN BRADFORD/GETTY

## MEN'S HOCKEY UCONN 6, NEW HAMPSHIRE 1 (LATE SATURDAY)

## UConn routs UNH for fourth-straight Hockey East win

Staff report

UConn got goals from six players and Darian Hanson had 31 saves on the way to a 6-1 win over New Hampshire on Saturday night in Hockey East action in Durham, N.H.

The Huskies (14-11-0, 10-6-0) earned their fourth-straight Hockey East victory and grabbed the full six points for the weekend.

in the standings.

After a 1-1 first period in which Hudson Schandor scored the Huskies' first goal, UConn exploded for three in the second and two more in the third while Hanson kept UNH (12-13-0, 6-10-1) off the scoreboard.

Sophomore Ryan Tverberg had a goal and an assist while classmate Artem Shlaine chipped in a goal and an assist as well. Senior

captains Jachym Kondelik and Carter Turnbull had the Huskies' other goals.

UNH got a goal from Tyler Ward and 25 saves from goaltender Mike Robinson.

With the score tied 1-1, the Huskies scored three-straight in the second period to grab control of the game. Kondelik got the run started at 4:29, scoring his ninth of the season. On a cross-ice feed

from defenseman Harrison Rees, Kondelik put a nice move on Robinson, who kicked the net off the mauling as his shot crossed the line. The referee immediately signaled a good goal for a 2-1 UConn lead.

Turnbull broke up a UNH shot at their blue line and got free for a breakaway chance, burying it at 11:42 for his sixth of the season and a 3-1 lead for the Huskies.

UConn made it 4-1 at the 13:47 mark as Firstov scored his eighth of the season.

The puck cycled to Jarrod Gourley (Calgary, Alberta) at the high point, where he fired on net. Fristov was deep in the left circle, where he got a stick on it to redirect it past Robinson.

UConn will head to Merrimack on Tuesday for a 7 p.m. Hockey East matchup.

# NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

## SHORTS

### Logano wins Clash at LA Coliseum

Joey Logano won the exhibition Busch Light Clash on a temporary quarter-mile track built inside Memorial Coliseum for a made-for-TV spectacular intended to hype NASCAR's upcoming season. NASCAR moved the Clash to Los Angeles from Daytona International Speedway, its only home since its 1979 inception, as part of a focused effort to break from its dated traditions via innovative big ideas. The Clash was a success before a single racecar drove through the Southern California football team's tunnel Sunday and onto the smooth, black asphalt that covered the Trojans' field. Ice Cube performed a set from the Peristyle during a brief "halftime," and Pitbull with backup dancers outfitted in a checkered-flag theme used the same stage for his pre-race concert. A handful of Los Angeles sporting greats served as the grand marshals, and Jeff Gordon lit the cauldron built for the 1932 Summer Olympics before the race began. Celebrities walked a red carpet, the USC student section filled in early, and the crowd booted pole-sitter Kyle Busch like a bunch of old pro's during driver introductions. The 31-year-old Logano, the 2018 Cup champ, won the Clash for the second time. Sunday's race was the first for NASCAR's Next Gen car.

### New Zealand wins its 1st Winter gold

The land of the long white cloud has its first gold medal in Winter Olympics history. Zoi Sadowski Synnott of New Zealand threw down a thrilling run on her last trip down the Secret Garden Olympic Slopestyle course on Sunday in Zhangjiakou, China to claim the gold medal for her island nation. "Great run of my life," said Sadowski Synnott, a 20-year-old Australian-born shredder with an American mother and a Kiwi father. They moved to New Zealand when she was 6. New Zealand has mountain resorts, including near where Sadowski Synnott lives, making it one of the top destinations in the Southern Hemisphere for snowboarding and skiing. "Absolute disbelief," Sadowski Synnott, above, said. "It probably means more to me to win New Zealand's first winter gold." Sadowski Synnott went into her last of three runs trailing American rival Julia Marino but came up big. She landed a double-cork 1080 on the second-to-last jump. And then she repeated the double cork in a different direction, the way she did in her victory at the Winter X Games last month when she became the first woman to pull it off.

### Almost 50, Slater still a surfing star

On Day 3 of the Winter Olympics, America's biggest victory might very well have come not on a frozen halfpipe in China, but in the warm waves of the Banzai Pipeline, thousands of miles away in Hawaii. The win belonged to Kelly Slater, the surfing great who turns 50 this week. Slater defeated a rider less than half his age to capture one of the sport's iconic events, the Billabong Pro Pipeline near the renowned reef off of Oahu. Now that he's on top — again — Slater is starting to consider retirement. Nothing official, of course. Just thinking about it. Should he step away, he already has his retirement plans: surfing. "Everyone who retires from surfing just goes surfing more," he said. Not everyone has won this much. Slater was the youngest world champion when he captured the title at 20. He was also the oldest when he won it at 39. He just finished his last contest in his 40s with a win, too. He turns the big 5-0 on Friday. In all, he's become a household name and captured a total of 11 world championships. His win over the weekend was his eighth World Surf League Championship Tour victory on the Banzai. It also marked his 56th overall tour win. To close out his latest victory, he beat Seth Moniz, a 24-year-old sensation from Hawaii. —AP



The U.S. and Canada are set to renew their rivalry in preliminary play this week before moving on to the medal round. AP FILE

## OLYMPICS WOMEN'S HOCKEY

# No thaw in relations

U.S.-Canada rivalry remains fierce ahead of prelim game

By John Wawrow

Associated Press

BEIJING — The last thing Cammi Granato and her U.S. women's hockey teammates needed to see after a 10-hour bus ride through the Maritimes was arriving at their hotel and finding the Canadians staying at the same place.

It was bad enough the two heated rivals had to confront each other on ice. In those early days — the late 1990s and 2000s — of what's developed into one of the world's fiercest rivalries, the two sides were ready to drop their gloves when and where ever.

"We'd have like a four-game tour through say, Nova Scotia, and you're on the bus and get to the hotel, same hotel as Canada, and we just played them the night before," Granato recalled. "The elevator door opens and there's five Canadians in it, and they're looking at you like 'You're not getting on this elevator. And if you do, you're not going to be very happy.'"

Granato, the first women inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame and captain of the first women's team to win a hockey gold medal at the 1998 Nagano Olympics, laughs at the memory now. And yet, hate isn't too strong of a word to describe the steamy grudge the two teams had developed for each other.

"Oh, it was real. It was a real hate," Granato said. "That's the team that is always standing in your way of what you want."

Gold has always been the goal, with the next chapter of U.S. versus Canada beginning Tuesday when they meet in a Group A preliminary-round game at the Beijing Olympics.

The Americans enter the tournament as defending champions after ending Canada's four-Olympic championship run in a dramatic 3-2 shootout win in 2018. Monique Lamoureux-Morando scored to tie the game with 6:21 left in regulation, before her twin sister Jocelyne Lamoureux-Davidson sealed it in the shootout.

Canada, naturally, exacted a sliver of revenge in August by ending the Americans' five-tournament run of world championship titles on Marie-Philip Poulin's goal in a 3-2 overtime win.

Now they prepare to gather at Wukesong Sports Centre for what is highly anticipated to be the first of two meetings between the global powers, with a rematch expected in the gold-medal game next week.

Four-time U.S. Olympian Hilary Knight was already deflecting questions about the matchup following a 5-0 win over the Russian team on Saturday night by noting the Americans must first place their focus on playing Switzerland the next day. There was no letdown: the U.S. (3-0) cruised to an 8-0 victory.

Canada followed a 12-1 tournament-opening win over Switzerland with an 11-1 win over Finland. It then faced Russia in game that ended too late for this edition.

The specter of the U.S.-Canada showdown, however, has loomed since the teams opened their pre-Olympic Rivalry Series at Allentown, Pennsylvania, in October.

The nine-game series was cut to six games following a COVID-19 break-out hitting the Canadians. Canada finished with a 4-1-1 edge, with four games decided by one goal, including three in overtime.

Canada coach Troy Ryan was cautious in taking anything away from the results.

"If you look at the history of these events and look at the history of results at the Olympics, there's no positive correlation often," he said.

All Ryan expects is the game to be close.

"Every time I think or hear of Canada against U.S., I think 3-2. So many games end up in 3-2 scores," he said. "You associate it with one of the best rivalries in all of sport."

Canada has the Olympic edge with a 5-3 record and winning four golds to America's two. At the world championships, the teams are 15-15 with Canada having won 11 titles to the U.S.'s nine. In all-time meetings dating to 1990, the Canadians have won 71 games in regulation, 20 in overtime/shootout, lost 53 in regulation and 17 in overtime/shootout, and tied once.

The key is how both teams have pushed each other to be better to the point the two nations essentially dominate every tournament.

"It's something that we've all been a part of that have played on those teams, and it just doesn't go away," former Canadian star Jayna Hefford said. "It's the games you want to play, and it's the team you think about as you're training because you want to play against the best."

"Those are the games you dream of."

## SUPER BOWL 56 BENGALS

### Big jump up began with Burrow pick

By Simmi Buttar | Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The key to the Bengals' latest rebuild that has led them to this most unexpected Super Bowl run starts with one player: Joe Burrow.

The Bengals were coming off an NFL-worst 2-14 season in 2019 and once again in need of serious help. Enter Burrow, the Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback who led LSU to the national championship.

Not surprisingly, Burrow, the top overall draft pick in 2020, had some ups and downs in his rookie season before suffering a season-ending knee injury against Washington, and team stumbled to a 4-11-1 record.

Going into the 2021 draft, the Bengals had a significant choice to make with the No. 5 pick. Start to fix the porous offensive line with tackle Penei Sewell or take dynamic wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase, who was Burrow's teammate at LSU but sat out the 2020 college season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

By adding Chase, who had 81 catches for 1,455 yards and 13 touchdowns in the regular season, to a group that also included Tee Higgins, a second-round pick in 2020, steady slot man Tyler Boyd as well as running back Joe Mixon (a 2017 second-rounder) gave the Bengals plenty of playmakers to help Burrow.

"I wouldn't call it surreal, I would say it's exciting," Burrow said after beating the Chiefs for the AFC title. "I think if you would have told me before the season that we'd be going to the Super Bowl, I probably would have called you crazy. Then, you know, we play the whole season and nothing surprises me now."

However, the offensive line remained a mess. Burrow was sacked 51 times in the regular season and nine times in the divisional-round win against the Titans. The Bengals did use three 2021 draft picks on guard Jackson Carman (second round), guard D'Ante Smith (fourth) and center Trey Hill (sixth), but the line is still a major work in progress. It almost certainly will be addressed again in the offseason regardless of what happens in the Super Bowl against the Rams and their fearsome pass rush.

The line features 2019 first-rounder Jonah Williams at left tackle, veterans Quinton Spain at left guard and Trey Hopkins at center, struggling right guard Hakeem Adeniji and right tackle Isaiah Prince, who is playing in place of the injured Riley Reiff.

One other draft pick who was little noticed last spring was Evan McPherson, selected in the fifth round — the only kicker drafted in 2021. McPherson has had a superb season, especially in the playoffs. He's 12-for-12 on field goals in the postseason and hit game-winners on the road to beat the top-seeded Titans and No. 2 seed Chiefs in consecutive weeks.

"He has ice in his veins," Bengals coach Zac Taylor said of his kicker last week.

With all the rebuilding through the draft the Bengals did on the offense and at kicker, the team has been unexpectedly aggressive in addressing the defense, especially via free agency in the previous two offseasons.

In 2020, the Bengals signed defensive lineman D.J. Reader to a four-year, \$53 million deal, cornerback Trae Waynes to a three-year, \$42 million contract, and safety Vonn Bell to a three-year, \$18 million deal.

Reader and Waynes were hurt that season and their absences were a major factor in some defensive struggles.

The Bengals also drafted three linebackers in 2020: Logan Wilson (third round), Akeem Davis-Gaither (fourth) and Markus Bailey (seventh) to address another position of need. Wilson had a particularly strong 2021.

And last offseason the Bengals went big into free agency again by signing defensive lineman Trey Hendrickson to a four-year, \$60 million deal; cornerback Chidobe Awuzie to a three-year, \$21.75 million contract; and cornerback Mike Hilton to a four-year, \$24 million deal. The Bengals also acquired lineman B.J. Hill in a trade with the Giants and signed Larry Ogunjobi to a one-year, \$6.2 million contract.

Hendrickson led the Bengals with 14 sacks in the regular season and Reader helped shore up the run defense.

"When I showed up, guys were really ready to work. Guys who had been here, they were hungry to win. Coaching staff was hungry to win. We knew we had to make some adjustments and things come with time," Reader said.

"You just got to learn those things ... how to win, how to go about the process of winning, curating a routine, being pros. And I think bringing in extra guys the next year and the draft picks they've all taken hold of that and the guys who stayed, they pushed through and really survived."

The free agent signings also provided veteran leadership in addition to the talent upgrade as the team used late interceptions to help clinch wins in all postseason victories in their run to the Super Bowl.

"We're made for this moment. We never quit," Bell said after his interception of Patrick Mahomes in overtime of the AFC championship game led to McPherson's winning kick. "Never quit fighting. We're a resilient group."



The Bengals selected QB Joe Burrow with the top overall pick in the 2020 draft. CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

## SPORTS

## OLYMPICS MEN'S LUGE



Johannes Ludwig, of Germany, celebrates winning the gold medal in luge men's single at the 2022 Winter Olympics on Sunday in the Yanqing district of Beijing. MARK SCHIEFELBEIN/AP

## Germany's Ludwig wins gold, Ridgefield's West takes 13th

By Tim Reynolds  
Associated Press

BEIJING — Johannes Ludwig let all his rivals know back in November that he would be the one to beat at the Beijing Olympics.

He was right.

Ludwig is the Olympic men's champion for the first time, making him the oldest — he's eight days shy of turning 36 — to win that race's gold medal. Ludwig finished four runs at the Yanqing Sliding Center in 3 minutes, 48.735 seconds, 0.160 seconds ahead of Wolfgang Kindl of Austria and 0.951 seconds ahead of bronze medalist Dominik Fischbacher of Italy.

"I had a lot of not-so-successful years," Ludwig said. "In 2014, I didn't qualify for the Olympics. I had a lot of fourth places at world championships; I think maybe five. The fun of this sport is to always continue pushing, and I think this medal is a sign that I did the right thing."

The field was cut from 34 sliders to 20 for the fourth and final run, and all three American men advanced to the fourth heat. Chris Mazdzer, the silver medalist from the Pyeongchang Games, was eighth. Ridgefield's Tucker West finished 13th — his best finish in three Olympic appearances. And Jonny Gustafson was 19th in his Olympic debut.

"I'll definitely take eighth," said Mazdzer, who will compete in the team relay later this week for what will almost certainly be his final Olympic event. "My best finish this year. It feels good. It does."

It's no surprise that a German won, and shouldn't be a surprise that this was Ludwig's turn. There have been 16 Olympic men's luge races; a German man has won 11 of them. Ludwig was the bronze medalist at the Pyeongchang Games, denying Fischbacher a medal there by 0.002 seconds — nowhere near enough time to even blink. Fischbacher carried that disappointment for four years.

Kindl closed the gap between Ludwig and the rest of the world at the Beijing Games.

Just not by enough.

And with that, the dream season for Ludwig is complete — World Cup overall champion, and now, the Olympic crown. He already knew what Olympic gold felt like after being part of the team that won the relay for Germany in Pyeongchang.

This time, though, the top of the podium was his and his alone.

Kindl grabbed an Austrian flag when his race was done, perfectly content with Olympic silver.

Fischbacher couldn't contain his

celebration when he clinched his medal, hugging longtime partner, Suffield's Emily Sweeney — she competes in the women's race that starts Monday — and screaming into the frosty air.

"I hope it's a very good omen and maybe she has something around her neck in two days," Fischbacher said.

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"Finally, I have it now and I'm very excited, happy, relieved," Fischbacher said.

Defending Olympic gold medalist David Gleirscher of Austria had trouble in both runs Sunday and finished only 15th.

By the time the fourth and final run came around, it was clearly a two-man race. Barring disaster, either Ludwig or Kindl would be the winner; Ludwig's margin over Kindl was 0.112 seconds after three runs, 0.722 seconds — that's a big margin in luge — over the third-place Fischbacher.

Ludwig, the last sled on the track, was flawless.

He would not let gold slip away, grabbing at his helmet in disbelief before jumping into a mob of happy German athletes and coaches to begin the celebration.

"I'm pretty happy," Ludwig said.

Among other notables, Fan Duoyao — China's first men's luge Olympian — was 24th. Mateusz Sochowicz of Poland, the slider who broke his left kneecap and cut his right leg to the bone in a training accident at the Yanqing track in November, was 25th.

And Saba Kumartashvili, the cousin of Nodar Kumartashvili — the slider from the former Soviet republic of Georgia who died in a training accident hours before the 2010 Vancouver Games officially opened — was 31st. He crossed the finish line, smiled broadly and pumped his fists in celebration.

Ludwig was nearly a second better than anyone else in that World Cup this past fall, which is just two heats, not the Olympic four. His winning margin at that World Cup was the biggest luge had seen in nearly eight years, a

1.11-second margin.

"I know this moment and Johannes, he's worked a long time for this medal," said Felix Loch, a two-time Olympic champion from Germany who was fourth and embraced Ludwig warmly when the race was over. "And now he's got the medal. It's great for him and we will celebrate with him."

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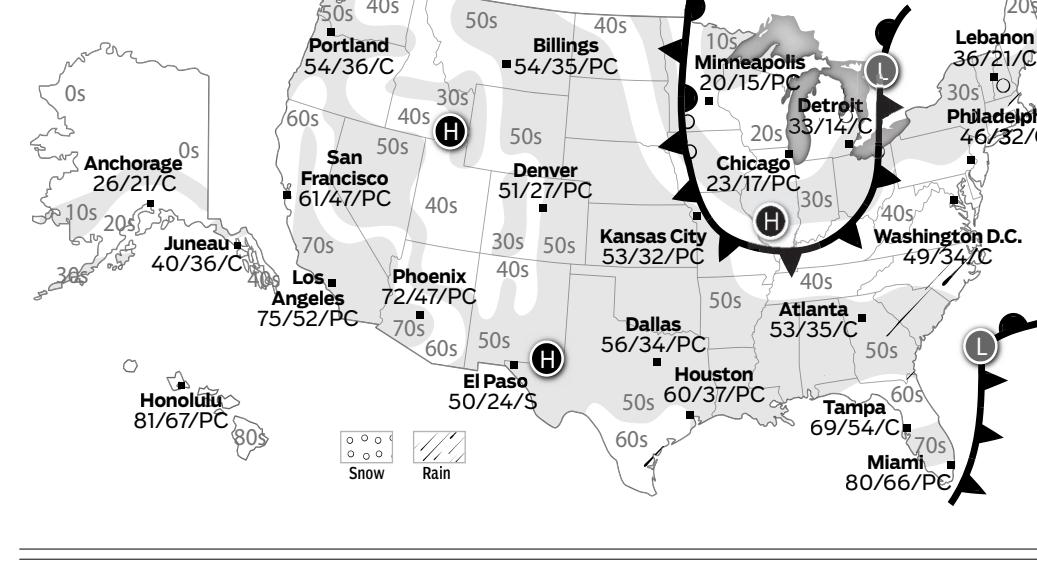
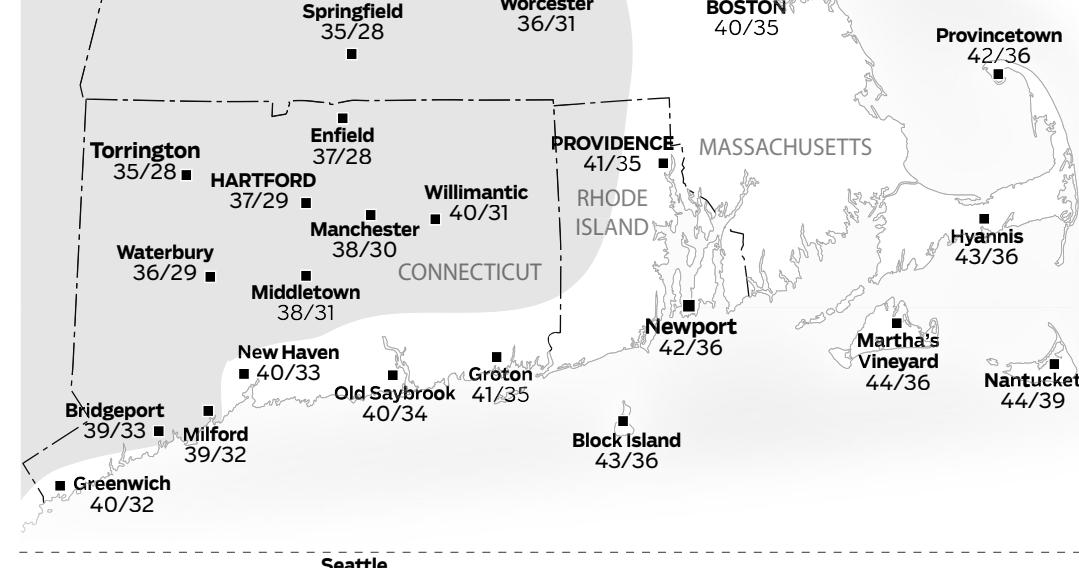
## WEATHER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
SUNRISE Cloudy with some snow, freezing rain and rain. Rain or freezing rain will be ending at night. Northeast wind at 5 mph.	SUNRISE Morning clouds giving way to a partly sunny sky, cool.	SUNRISE Sunshine mixing with afternoon clouds, cool.	SUNRISE Considerable cloudiness, cool.	SUNRISE Partly sunny, remaining milder than normal.
NOON HIGH 37° LOW 29°	NOON HIGH 42° LOW 23°	NOON HIGH 41° LOW 27°	NOON HIGH 45° LOW 24°	NOON HIGH 44° LOW 28°



## YOURCAST

Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



## AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

## NEW ENGLAND

Bangor	34 27	C	Baltimore	47 28	C	Nashville	48 27	PC	San Juan	82 72	PC	Budapest	46 36	PC
Burlington	34 22	C	Bismarck	51 27	PC	New Orleans	54 39	C	Tucson	66 41	S	Amsterdam	46 41	S
Caribou	27 22	C	Boise	34 10	PC	New York	41 34	C	Orlando	74 55	C	Athens	53 43	S
Concord	32 29	SF	Buffalo	39 20	PC	Oklahoma City	56 31	S	Orlando	41 19	PC	Bangkok	88 70	PC
Montpelier	30 20	C	Charleston	52 40	C	Omaha	55 29	PC	Pittsburgh	49 19	PC	Dubai	75 66	PC
Mont. Wash.	21 14	C	Cincinnati	33 11	PC	Orlando	74 55	C	Raleigh	43 31	C	Bangkok	82 75	PC
Portland	35 31	SF	Cleveland	34 13	C	Pittsburgh	41 19	PC	St. Louis	40 32	PC	Edinburgh	48 43	C
Woods Hole	38 33	SH	Indianapolis	29 16	PC	Raleigh	43 31	C	Beijing	41 23	S	Helsinki	34 25	C
			Jacksonville	59 45	C	St. Louis	40 32	PC	Beijing	29 16	S	Hong Kong	66 55	SH
			Las Vegas	65 44	S	Salt Lake City	44 27	PC	Beijing	42 23	S	Tampa	55 45	PC
			Albany	36 22	C	San Antonio	58 37	PC	Beirut	62 56	SH	Jerusalem	55 45	PC
			Albuquerque	45 26	S	Berlin	45 37	SH	Istanbul	55 41	R	Johannesburg	79 59	T
			Atlantic City	44 30	C	Bermuda	67 66	SH	Rio de Janeiro	86 72	T	Seoul	36 23	S

KEY: S Sunny, C Cloudy, PC Partly Cloudy, R Rain, SH Showers, SN Snow, SF Snow Flurries, T-tstorms

## OUTLOOK

A trough of low pressure stretched from Long Island to the mid-Atlantic coast will cause cloudy skies on Monday along with the chance for some snow, freezing rain and rain. The best chance for snow and freezing rain will be along and to the north of Interstate 84, while a good deal of the precipitation that falls along at least the eastern shoreline will be rain with highs near 40 degrees. The precipitation will taper off in most of the state around midnight, but eastern areas could continue into the early predawn hours. High pressure will bring fair skies Tuesday through Saturday.

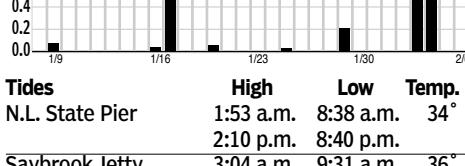
-Gary Lessor

## ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.00 0.11
Month to date	1.87 0.64
Total this year	3.70 3.92
Snowfall In Inches	
Yesterday (by 4 p.m.)	0.0 0.6
Total this year	18.4 29.8

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

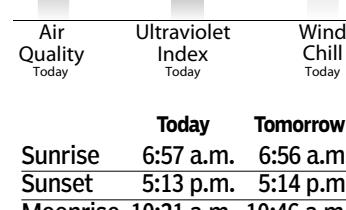
## 30-day Precipitation History In Inches



## Tides

	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	1:53 a.m. 8:38 a.m. 34°		
	2:10 p.m. 8:40 p.m.		
Saybrook Jetty	3:04 a.m. 9:31 a.m. 36°		
	3:21 p.m. 9:33 p.m.		
Connecticut River at Portland	5:47 a.m. 12:29 a.m.		
	6:04 p.m. 1:17 p.m.		
Madison	3:15 a.m. 9:34 a.m. 36°		
	3:43 p.m. 9:46 p.m.		
New Haven	3:35 a.m. 9:58 a.m. 35°		
	4:03 p.m. 10:10 p.m.		
Stamford	3:39 a.m. 10:12 a.m. 36°		
	4:07 p.m. 10:24 p.m.		

## Air Quality Forecast For Today



Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise 6:57 a.m.	6:56 a.m.
Sunset 5:13 p.m.	5:14 p.m.
Moonrise 10:21 a.m.	10:46 a.m.
Moonset a.m.	12:29 a.m.

## River Stage at Hartford

7:18 feet at 3:30 p.m.

## Boating

## L.I. Sound W

## L.I. Sound E

## B.I. Sound

Weather Showers

Wind NE, 5-10 E, 5-10 E, 5-10

Seas 1 ft. 1 ft. 2 ft.

## Temperature

## High

## Low

Sunday 29 at 3:59 p.m. 11 at 7:25 a.m.

Normal for date 37 19

Record for date 57 in 1991 -7 in 2015

A year ago 42 20

Range this year 52 -2

## Heating Degree Days

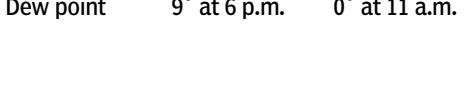
## Season

## Normal

## Last Season

For July 1 - Feb 6 3271 3573 3277

## 30-day Temperature History



## Atmosphere

## High

## Low

Barometer 30.67 at 9 a.m. 30.54 at 12 a.m.

Dew point 9° at 6 p.m. 0° at 11 a.m.

## Weather page produced by



## LOCAL SCOREBOARD

## Saturday's late high school results

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

Others Valley Regional 46, Fitch 32

FITCH (9-6): Katelyn Cervini 1-1-3, Dre'Ana

Singleton 0-2-2, Grace Jenkins 2-0-4, Laura Johnson-Hoffman 3-1-7, Mariette El Khoury 3-4-12,

Bridget O'Leary 1-0-2, Meleeya Robbins 1-0-2.

Totals 11-8-32.

VALLEY REGIONAL (0): Ava Cunningham 2-0-5,

Abby Bradbury 4-1-10, Liz Allen 3-0-7, Olivia

Cunningham 3-2-8, Lily Grow 5-2-13, Siena

Schaller 1-1-3. Totals 16-6-46.

F 8 14 12 12 - 46

VR 8 5 14 5 - 33

## BOYS HOCKEY

CCC-South Northeastern 6, Enfield co-op 3

E 0 0 3 - 3

N 3 1 2 - 6

Goals: N-Tyler Szedra (2), Jason Tew, Patrick

Frommer, Shane Pournaleki, Austin Jonas; E-Drew

Matthews, Josh Tyler, Kyle Cox. Saves: N-Bauer Cordeiro Larkin and Ryan Murphy, 18;

E-Tommy Terhune, 20. Rec: N-4-9; E-4-8.

CCC-Inter

Wethersfield 2, South Windsor 1

SW 1 0 0 0 - 1

W 0 1 0 1 - 2

Goals: W-Braeden Hart, Colby Quinn; SW-

Chase Mawhinney. Saves: W-Matt Ruck, 16;

SW-Jason Sigler, 14. Rec: W-9-2-2; SW-8-4.

Others SGWL 2, New Milford 1

NM 1 0 0 - 1

S 1 0 1 - 2

Goals: S-Jordan Blais, Ryan Martineau; NM-

Theo Dieter. Saves: S-Hunter Basco, 19;

NM-Jonas Veleas, 23. Rec: S-6-7; NM-8-5.

## WRESTLING

Others Groundhog Duals (South Windsor)&lt;/div